Good Governance

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All LSDMC Meeting - 2018
Purpose

- Compliance with the Ohio Open Meetings Act
- Some thoughts about Parliamentary Procedure
- Describe the District’s obligation under the COAST Agreement
Open Meetings Act

Ohio Rev. Code 121.22

- The Open Meetings Act requires public bodies, including CPS’s Board of Education, to conduct all official business in open meetings that the public may attend and observe.
- Subcommittees are also considered "public bodies" and are required to follow the same rules.
Open Meetings Act

Requirements of the Open Meetings Act

1) Provide notice
2) Keep meetings open to the public
3) Take minutes
Open Meetings Act

- Provide notice to the public – determine a reasonable method for notifying the public of meetings
  - Regular meetings – held at regular intervals (i.e. monthly). Requires notice of date, time, and location.
  - Special meetings – requires 48 hours notice and must be called for a particular purpose. Requires notice of date, time, location, and purpose.
Open Meetings Act

- **Openness**
  - All meetings of the LSDMC should be open to the public.
  - The public has a right to hear, not to be heard or disrupt.
  - Must be present in-person to vote and be counted as a part of the quorum.
  - Cannot conduct business over email, by phone, or in other non-public meetings.
Open Meetings Act

- **Executive Session**
  - Must be for one of the explicit reasons identified in the statute. For LSDMC, executive session should only be used for principal selection.
  - Requires a motion identifying the reason for recessing into executive session and a roll call vote.
  - No decisions are made in Executive Session – have the discussion and then return to an open session to vote and make a final decision.
Open Meetings Act

**Minutes**

- The Open Meetings Act requires all public bodies to keep “full and accurate” minutes of meetings.
- Not a verbatim transcript.
- Minutes should be made available for public inspection.
Parliamentary Procedure

- **Purpose**
  - To facilitate the orderly transaction of business during a meeting
  - Ensures that all members have an opportunity to be heard

- Procedural, not substantive rules. Do not override state law, CPS Board Policy, or LSDMC Bylaws
Parliamentary Procedure

- **Quorum**
  - Per Board Policy:
    - Two-thirds quorum requirement for any decision-making
    - Decisions determined by a majority of those present
    - If less than two-thirds, meeting may be informational only

- **Agenda / Scheduling Meetings**
  - Generally set by the chair and principal
  - Opportunity for five members to schedule meeting
Parliamentary Procedure

Basics:

1. Consider only one question / issue at a time.

2. Chair should recognize one speaker at a time – everyone who wishes to be heard should have the opportunity to speak. (Chair has the right to express an opinion and vote on any issue.)

3. General decorum should be maintained at all times.
The COAST Agreement

- During the 2002 levy campaign, pro-levy signs were posted on school property supporting the levy. COAST sued CPS when anti-levy signs were removed. The lawsuit was settled through the so-called “COAST Agreement.”

- 2012 amendment and injunction
**Prohibitions**

(1) **Political Signs**
CPS does not allow political signs or advertisements to be posted on its property. Any signs found on CPS property should be removed immediately.

(2) **Campaigning**
CPS property and personnel cannot be used in support of or in opposition to a political candidate or ballot initiative (i.e., school levy).
Exceptions

- Non-partisan events in which both sides are represented or invited (i.e., candidates nights)
- Meetings of community councils and other non-profit group, but may not for political purposes
- Individual exercise of First Amendment rights (not using CPS personnel or property).
- Discussions with students of electoral issues and political campaigns in civics classes
Contact

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