

General Board Information

Attendance: (Policy BB: Legal Status)

c. Attendance - Directors and alternates are expected to attend all board meetings, work sessions and assigned committee meetings. Should a Director or alternate be unable to attend any meeting, they must notify the Chair or Superintendent.

After two consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, the member shall be notified in writing by the Board informing him/her that a third consecutive unexcused absence from a regular meeting will constitute cause for the Board to consider declaring his/her seat on the Board vacant.

After three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, the Board shall notify said member in that the Board will consider declaring his/her seat vacant at the next regular meeting of the Board or at a special meeting called for the purpose of considering this matter.

At the meeting where the declaration of a vacancy, in accordance with this policy, is being considered, the Board member who is the subject of the action shall be provided the opportunity to present his/her reasons why the Board should not declare a vacancy.

Following the deliberation outlined in sections B and C of this policy, the Board shall vote whether or not to declare a vacancy.

Should a vacancy be declared in accordance with this policy, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the appropriate provisions of MRSA Title 20-A. Upon a Board-declared vacancy, the town's Board of Selectmen will be notified of the vacancy.

An absence for any of the following reasons shall be routinely considered an excused absence: an illness of the member or members of his/her immediate family, death in the member's family, a short-term family obligation, or an unavoidable commitment related to the member's employment (so long as such a commitment is not of the type which prevents the member from attending on a regular basis). Absences for reasons other than those identified above shall be considered by the Board on an individual basis.

Voting:

Alternates who attend meetings in the role of an alternate should neither make motions nor vote. They are, however, encouraged to participate in any and all discussion prior to formal votes. If a town's regular member is absent and an alternate is acting as a town representative, s/he will enjoy all voting privileges.

Executive Session:

Matters that meet the criteria for discussion in Executive Session are not to be discussed outside of Executive Session. This expectation aligns with the requirement that no public records may be kept during these sessions. Personnel matters, student expulsions, and other matters that qualify for Executive Session are sensitive and should be respected as such by members of the board.

Status as a Board Member: (Policy BCA: Conduct and Ethics)

- Each member of the board should let his or her consideration for the entire district take precedence over partisanship and special interest.
- A member shall at all times think of students first and base decisions on how his/her decisions will affect the students' educational needs and abilities.
- A member shall make decisions only after facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed, and once made, shall graciously support a decision made, by the majority of the board.
- A member shall remember that as an individual one has no legal authority outside the meetings of the board and that one will conduct relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all communication with the media on the basis of this fact.