

EPHRATA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES

TITLE: ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATION IN BOARD
MEETINGS

ADOPTED: April 26, 2004

REVISED: May 12, 2014

006.1. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. Authority

The Board recognizes that it would enhance public participation and be more convenient for the public and Board members if there were more than one location for Board meetings and, from time to time, factors such as weather conditions, illness, travel and scheduling difficulties make it difficult for Board members to be physically present at Board meetings. The Board further recognizes that advances in technology have made it possible for individuals to interact with others at remote locations through the use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing and that effective use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing will help promote the technological capabilities of the district and the use of such technology by students and other persons.

The Board shall permit more than one location to be the location for a meeting and/or permit a Board member to participate in deliberations and actions by teleconferencing or videoconferencing.

Section 2. Guidelines

A Board member may attend a Board meeting and may participate in deliberations and actions by his/her physical presence at any of the location(s) designated by the Board for the meeting or by teleconferencing or videoconferencing if s/he cannot physically attend the meeting due to inclement weather, illness, travel or scheduling conflicts.

A majority of Board members shall be physically present at a Board meeting when a Board member attends through electronic communications.

A Board member shall be deemed to be present at the meeting and shall be entitled to participate in the meeting only if the Board member is able to hear everything that is said at the meeting by the public and other Board members and the public and other Board members are able to hear everything that is said by the Board member who is not physically present at the meeting.

In the event it is determined by the Board President or Chair of the meeting that the Board member who is present by teleconferencing or videoconferencing cannot be heard by all persons who are present at the meeting or all persons who are present at the meeting cannot be heard by any Board member who is present by teleconferencing or videoconferencing, then the teleconference or videoconference shall be terminated and only those who are physically present at the meeting shall be permitted to participate.

A Board member who wishes to participate in a Board meeting by means of teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall notify the Board President at least one (1) day in advance of the meeting.

The Board member shall also ensure that the location is quiet and free from background noise and interruptions, and shall participate in the entire Board meeting.

A Board member who is present at a meeting through teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall be permitted to vote only by role call.

The appropriate district officials shall be authorized and directed to provide teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing facilities sufficient to implement this policy.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407