

POLICY	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
MEETINGS	SECTION 102
102.1 Public Meetings 102.2 Meeting Agendas 102.3 Meeting Format 102.4 Conduct of Meetings 102.5 Annual Evaluation and Retreat 102.6 Joint Meetings with County Commissioners	Adopted: 2/11/09 Reviewed: 10/11/06, 7/11/07, 11/24/08

102.1 Public Meetings

The board meets regularly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except when such dates conflict with holidays or other events. Each December the board will adopt a meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. The board may also hold special meetings as required. Special meetings shall be called by the president and secretary, or by a majority of the board.

All business shall be conducted in meetings open to the public, except for matters that may be conducted in closed session in accordance with Maryland law.

102.2 Meeting Agendas

- A. In accordance with provisions as outlined in B. of this section, the superintendent shall prepare an agenda for each meeting after consultation with the board. The agenda shall be distributed to board members, the public, staff and the media in advance in accordance with Maryland law. The board will endeavor to make the agenda as accessible as possible for the public.
- B. Agenda items shall include matters proposed by the superintendent, as well as issues of concern to the board. The board shall set aside time during each meeting for open discussion and prioritization of potential future agenda items. An item shall be placed on the list of future agenda topics if at least three members of the board agree to include that item.

102.3 Meeting Format

- A. Planning Sessions

The meetings may include planning sessions, to provide an extended time for discussion of public business matters. Planning sessions will typically be held during the day. The start time and agenda for the planning sessions will vary depending on the amount of business to be conducted, but shall include time for open discussion of any items of concern to board members.

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B. Regular Meeting Agenda

After the planning session, starting at 6:00 pm on the meeting dates, the board will generally follow the following agenda format:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Closed Session Announcement
5. Public Comments
6. Student Member Comments
7. County Commissioner Comments
8. Superintendent Comments
9. Minutes
10. Action Items/Consent
11. Board Items
12. Board Member Comments
13. Setting Next Meeting Agenda
14. Adjournment

102.4 Conduct of Meetings

A. All board meetings will be conducted in an orderly and businesslike manner using *Roberts Rules of Order (Revised)* as a guide, except when such rules are superseded by board policy or Maryland law.

B. Quorum and Number of Votes Needed for Action

Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Motions or resolutions may be adopted only with the concurrence of an absolute majority (four votes) of the board. In the event there is a disqualification of one or more members because of a conflict of interest, and the disqualification results in less than a quorum, the disqualified person(s) shall disclose the nature and circumstances of the conflict to the board and may subsequently participate if necessary to take public action on the item.

C. Public Comment

The board welcomes and encourages public comment and will provide opportunity for public comment during planning sessions. Adjustments to time allowed for public comment will be made by the board.

The board will provide opportunity for public comment at the start of the regular meeting. A maximum of 30 minutes will be reserved for public comment at the beginning of the regular meeting. If more people wish to speak than time allows, public comment shall continue at the discretion of the board.

With the exception of confidential matters, citizens may speak about matters relating to the school system. If individuals have specific concerns relating to

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actions of staff members, such concerns may be communicated to the Superintendent. Persons desiring to speak shall register 10 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting start time indicating (1) name of speaker, (2) topic(s) to be discussed, and (3) whether the speaker is speaking as an individual or representing an organization.

In order to have an orderly presentation of comments by the public, the following procedures apply:

1. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. One individual per organization will be allotted (5) minutes for comments. Staff monitors time through use of a timer. When the allotted time expires, the speaker is permitted to complete a sentence. The speaker must then return to the audience.
2. The speaker may not discuss personnel matters or comment on issues pending in appeals to a local board or to the State Board.
3. Individuals are permitted to submit written comments to board members.
4. If any individual fails to comply with these procedures, the board president may order the person to leave the public meeting, adjourn the meeting, or may take such further action as necessary to ensure compliance with these procedures.
5. Efforts will be made to follow-up as appropriate.

102.5 Annual Evaluation and Retreat

The board shall hold a separate meeting each year, at a time and place to be determined by the board, for the purpose of self-evaluation. During this meeting, the board will evaluate its own performance for the prior year, and will discuss strategies to improve the effectiveness of the board.

102.6 Joint Meetings With County Commissioners

To facilitate communication and promote a good relationship with the local funding authority, the board shall offer to meet monthly with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss items of mutual concern.