Board Policy 5: School Board Meetings - Brown Act Compliance

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS - BROWN ACT COMPLIANCE

I. TYPES OF MEETINGS - COMPLIANCE WITH BROWN ACT

All meetings of the Board of Directors of Making Waves Academy ("Board") and its committees shall be called, noticed, and held in compliance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act ("Brown Act"), Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

A. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board, including annual meetings, shall be held at least four times a year at such times and places as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Board. At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the Board or its designee shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting.

Meetings of advisory committees or standing committees, for which an agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in accordance with law, shall be considered regular Board meetings. Subcommittees created by formal action or resolution of the Board are subject to the Brown Act.

Meetings shall normally be held at the principal location of Making Waves Academy. The Board may also designate that a meeting be held at any place within the granting agency's boundaries designated in the notice of the meeting. All meetings of the Board shall be called, held and conducted in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Brown Act, as said chapter may be modified by subsequent legislation.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board for any purpose may be called at any time by the President of the Board, or by a majority of the Board. The party calling a special meeting shall determine the place, date, and time thereof. The Board may periodically (normally once every two years) meet at a location outside the granting agency's boundaries for informal discussion of matters of mutual interest regarding the Making Waves organization ("Joint Board Retreat"). No formal Board actions will be taken or decisions made at any Joint Board Retreat.

C. Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings may be called by a Board majority when an emergency situation arises involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities in accordance with law.

D. Teleconference Meetings

Members of the Board may participate in teleconference meetings so long as all of the following requirements in the Brown Act are complied with:

- ➤ At a minimum, a quorum of the members of the Board shall participate in the teleconference meeting from locations within the boundaries of the school district in which Making Waves Academy operates;
- > All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call;
- ➤ If the Board elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations with each teleconference location being identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting;
- ➤ All locations where a member of the Board participates in a meeting via teleconference must be fully accessible to members of the public and shall be listed on the agenda;
- ➤ Members of the public must be able to hear what is said during the meeting and shall be provided with an opportunity to address the Board directly at each teleconference location;
- > The agenda shall indicate that members of the public attending a meeting conducted via teleconference need not give their name when entering the conference call.

II. Notification of Meetings

A. Regular and Special Meetings

Notice of the time and place of meetings, along with the agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting and supporting documentation, will be publicly posted on the website via An integrated board management platform not later than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, and not later than 24 hours prior to a special meeting. The notice and agenda will also be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public not later than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, and not later than 24 hours prior to a special meeting. It is the responsibility of the Chief of Staff to provide notice and copies of the agenda and supporting documentation for both regular and special meetings.

B. Emergency Meetings

In the case of an emergency situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, notice to the Board will be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable under the circumstances. All media outlets that have requested notice of special meetings shall be notified one hour prior to the emergency meeting, or in the case of a dire emergency, at or near the time that the Board members are notified of the emergency meeting. The notice shall be given by telephone and all telephone numbers provided by the media outlet in the request for notice shall be exhausted. If telephones are not working, the notice requirement is waived and the media shall be notified of the fact of the holding of the emergency meeting, the purpose of the meeting and any action taken at the meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.

III. Conduct of Board Meetings

A. Open Session

All regular, special and emergency meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and the media, except Closed Sessions as authorized by law.

B. Public Participation at Meetings

Requests to address the Board: Individuals seeking to address the Board on an item on the agenda or during time allocated for public comment shall complete the card, "Public Comment Card" (located in the board meeting room), and give it to the Board Secretary, or his/her designee, prior to the beginning of public comment for general public comment and before Board discussion commences following staff presentations.

Public comment generally: At a regular meeting, any person may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda and any other matters under the Board's jurisdiction. At a special meeting, any person may address the Board only concerning the items on the agenda. The total time for presentations to the Board on all public comments (including agenda items and non-agenda items at regular meetings) shall not exceed 20 minutes, unless the Board grants additional time. Individual presentations will normally be limited to three minutes each, though the President of the Board may grant up to five minutes. All public comment concerning all matters shall be heard immediately after the meeting is called to order and before the Board's formal discussion of the agenda topics and consideration of action.

Limits on public comment: The President may curtail individual presentations if repetitive of points raised by others. Any person who, while addressing the Board, makes impertinent,

slanderous or profane remarks to any Board member, staff or general public, who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Board meeting shall, at the discretion of the President, be barred from further audience before the Board during that meeting.

In the event that any meeting is interrupted by a group(s) of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the Board may order the meeting room cleared and continue the session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other media, if not participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any such session.

Recording and/or broadcasting of meeting: Persons attending an open meeting have the right to record or broadcast the proceedings with audio or video equipment unless the Board reasonably finds that the recording or broadcast cannot continue without noise, illumination or obstruction of view that constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

C. Board Members at Meetings

Limits on Board discussion and action: For regular meetings, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as provided below, and further except that Board members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons during public comment regarding off-agenda topics. For special meetings, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda.

Exceptions in regular meetings: In regular meetings, the Board may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda if any of the following conditions apply: 1) A majority of the Board determines that an emergency situation exists (as defined in the Government Code); 2) A determination by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present at the meeting, or if less than two-thirds are present, a unanimous vote of those Board members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the Board after the agenda was posted; or 3) The item was properly posted for a prior meeting occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item and, at the prior meeting, the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

Closed session: Prior to holding any closed session, the Board shall disclose, in an open meeting, the item(s) to be discussed in the closed session. The disclosure may take the form of a reference to the item(s) as they are listed by number or letter on the agenda. In the closed session, the Board may consider only those matters covered in its statement.

After any closed session, the Board shall reconvene into open session prior to adjournment and make a report of any action taken in closed session and the vote or abstention of every Board member present thereon in accordance with Government Code section 54957.1.

D. Minutes of Board Meetings

Open session meetings: The minutes of open session meetings of the Board shall record all motions, show the names of Board members making and seconding motions and state the vote upon the motion. In the event that Board members are participating via teleconferencing, all votes during the meeting shall be by roll call and will be reflected in the minutes. The open session minutes shall also record all resolutions, the recommendations of the management team, and the substance of the Board's discussion or the substance of statements pertinent to Board's business made by members of the staff or public.

The original copy of the open session minutes shall be posted on the website via An integrated board management platform, signed electronically by the Secretary of the Board or their designee, together with copies of resolutions and any other documents determined by the Board to be attached to the official minutes.. The folder of minutes for open session meetings is a public record. In addition to the official minutes, a binder of all minutes and and attached documents shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Board, or their designee.

Closed session meetings: The Board Secretary or his/her designee shall keep a record of topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting. The minutes for closed session is not a public record subject to inspection and shall be kept confidential.

Minutes for Emergency Meetings: Any time an emergency meeting is held, the minutes must provide a list of persons who were notified or attempted to be notified, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting. The minutes will be posted on the website via An integrated board management platform as soon after the meeting as possible.

IV. Quorum Requirements

A majority of the directors then in office shall constitute a quorum. All acts or decisions of the Board will be by majority vote of the directors in attendance, based upon the presence of a quorum. Should there be less than a majority of the directors present at any meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned. Directors may not vote by proxy.

V. Continuances and Adjournment

A. Continuances

Items appearing on agendas for regular meetings may be continued to another meeting, to be held within five calendar days from the date of the originally posted meeting, without triggering the requirement that the agenda item be re- posted with the requisite notice.

B. Adjournment

The Board may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a time and place specified in an order of adjournment.