

Brown Act Notes

There are changes in the air due to pending transparency-focused legislation. At the California Charter School Association Conference in March, the law offices of Young, Minney & Corr highlighted requirements for charter schools. Additional changes may be on the way, and the Governance Committee will be notified of these changes, if and when they become the law of the land.

Reminders and Updates

1. Members are very strongly encouraged not to teleconference from home! Teleconferencing in such a manner opens the member's home to the public.
2. Agendas posted at teleconference locations must be accessible to the general public. For example, if an agenda is posted in an office setting, the public must have open access to the location of the posting (without being stopped at the lobby by security, for example).
3. Teleconferencing from an automobile is not allowed.
4. If a board member misses the 72-hour teleconference agenda posting deadline, he or she may view or listen to the meeting, but the member cannot participate in the meeting in any way.
5. Executive compensation reports must include all administrative staff, including principals and vice principals.
6. All forms of executive compensation must be reported in open session, including health care and retirement benefits, travel allowances, and any other item of monetary value.
7. It is important to establish a standard time limit for public speakers in the agenda (2-3 minutes for each comment, for example). Create a policy and enforce it consistently.
8. The content of closed sessions is strictly confidential and must not be discussed outside of closed sessions.

Starting January 1, 2020

1. A majority of board members must be in the required jurisdiction during a board meeting. In January 2020, the jurisdiction will shift from the district level to the county level. Meetings must be held in the county in which the largest number of students reside.
2. Charter schools must record audio and/or video of all meetings, starting in January 2020 (probably with captions/transcriptions).