

## **Policy: Board of Trustees' Meeting Process and Procedures**

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### **Policy Statement**

The Board of Trustees acknowledges that it is obliged to comply with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The Board is furthermore committed to effective and efficient meetings that are focused at a governance level and provide the information the Board needs to be assured that all policies, plans and processes are being implemented and progressing as planned.

### **Procedural Guidelines**

#### **Meetings:**

1. Are based on a prepared annual agenda. The agenda preparation is the responsibility of the Chair. Sufficient copies of the agenda of the open (public) session will be posted on the Jireh Christian School website.
2. Are held with the expectation that trustees have prepared for them and will participate in all discussions at all times within the principles of acceptable behaviour.
3. Have the right, by resolution, to exclude the public and news media from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Decisions by the Board are fully recorded but remain confidential. The Board needs to:
  - make the reasons for excluding the public clear
  - reserve the right to include any non-Board member it chooses
4. Can be held via audio, visual, or electronic communication providing:
  - all trustees who wish to participate in the meeting have access to the technology needed to participate, and
  - a quorum of members can simultaneously communicate with each other throughout the meeting.

Members of the school community are encouraged to take an active interest in the school and its performance and are welcome to attend all Board meetings within the Public Attending Board Meetings Procedure.

#### **Board meetings**

##### **General:**

- Meetings are held as per the triennial review schedule with dates confirmed each December for the following year.
- Board minutes will be taken by a non-trustee, paid on a commercial basis, on-contract.
- The quorum shall be more than half the members of the Board currently holding office.
- Only apologies received from those who cannot be present must be recorded. Trustees who miss three consecutive meetings without the prior leave of the Board cease to be members. An apology does not meet the requirement of prior leave. To obtain prior leave, a trustee needs to request leave for however long the need is, at a Board meeting, and the Board must approve it.
- The Chair shall be elected at the first meeting of the year except in the general election year where it will be at the first meeting of the newly elected Board.
- The Chair may exercise a casting vote in the case of equality of votes, in addition to his/her deliberative vote.

- Any trustees with a conflict or pecuniary interest in any issue shall not take part in any debate on such issues and may be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate. A pecuniary interest arises when a trustee may be financially advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of decisions made by the Board. for example: contracts, pay and conditions etc. A conflict of interest is when an individual trustee could have, or could be thought to have, a personal stake in matters to be considered by the Board.
- Only trustees have automatic speaking rights.
- The Board delegates, and minutes, powers under Sections 15 and 17 of Education Act to the Disciplinary Committee.
- The Board delegates, and minutes, authority to the Deputy Principal in the times of absence of the Principal.

#### **Time of meetings:**

- Regular meetings commence at 6.45 pm and conclude by 9 pm.
- A resolution for an extension of time may be moved but will not normally exceed 30 minutes.
- Any business remaining on the agenda at the conclusion of the meeting is transferred to the following meeting.

#### **Special meetings:**

A special meeting may be called by delivery of notice to the Chair signed by at least one third of Trustees currently holding office.

#### **Exclusion of the public:**

The meeting may, by resolution, exclude the public and news media (by going into committee) from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act unless specifically asked to stay. The wording to be used in the motion to exclude the public is found in Schedule 2A of that Act. Excluding the public is most often used to ensure privacy of individuals or financially sensitive issues.

#### **Public participation:**

- The Board meeting is a meeting held in public rather than a public meeting.
- Public participation is at the discretion of the Board.
- Public attending the meeting are given a notice about their rights regarding attendance at the meeting.

#### **Motions/amendments:**

- A motion is a formal proposal for consideration. All motions and amendments moved in debate must be seconded unless moved by the Chair and are then open for discussion.
- Motions and amendments once proposed and accepted may not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting.
- No further amendments may be accepted until the first one is disposed of.
- The mover of a motion has right of reply.
- A matter already discussed may not be reintroduced at the same meeting in any guise or by way of an amendment.

#### **Tabling documents:**

When written information is used in support of a discussion, it should be tabled so that it can be examined by those present. It then forms part of the official record.

**Correspondence:**

The Board should have access to all correspondence. Correspondence that requires the Board to take some action should be photocopied/scanned and distributed prior to the meeting. Other correspondence can be listed and tabled so that trustees can read it if required.

**Termination of debate:**

All decisions are to be taken by open voting by all trustees who are present.

**Lying on the table:**

When a matter cannot be resolved, or when further information is necessary before a decision can be made, the matter can be left unresolved for future discussion.

**Points of order:**

Points of order are questions directed to the Chair which require an answer or a ruling. They are not open to debate and usually relate to the rules for the running of a meeting.

**Suspension of meeting procedures:**

The Board's normal meeting procedures may be suspended by resolution of the meeting.

**Agenda:**

- Agenda items are to be notified to the Chair 7 days prior to the meeting.
- Late items will only be accepted with the approval of the Board and in rare circumstances where a decision is urgent.
- The order of the agenda may be varied by resolution at the meeting.
- All matters requiring a decision of the Board are to be put on the agenda as separate meeting items.
- All items in the agenda are to carry a recommended course of action and, where appropriate, be supplemented by supporting material in the agenda documentation.
- The agenda is to be collated with the agenda items placed in the agenda order and marked with the agenda number.
- Papers requiring reading and consideration will not normally be accepted if tabled at the meeting.
- Papers and reports are to be sent to the Board 3 working days before the meeting.

**Minutes:**

- The Principal is to ensure that secretarial services are provided to the Board.
- The minutes are to clearly show resolutions and action points and who is to complete the action.
- A draft set of minutes is to be completed and sent to the Chair for approval within 5 working days of the Board meeting before being distributed to trustees within 2 working days after approval being given by the Chair.

Review schedule: Triennially

<b>ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>			
Date	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Chairperson	<b>R Thornton (Acting)</b>

Reviewed      Date    1<sup>st</sup> September 2020                      Chairperson    **M Causley**