

Pennsbury School District

School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supercedes Index No.	Index No.
02/12/15	New	012.1

Title: School Board Member Attendance At Meetings Via Electronic Communications

Purpose: The Board of School Directors recognizes that it is a deliberative body and that it is important for Board members to attend meetings to perform the role for which they were elected. It is the preference of the Board to have a quorum physically present for all meetings.

Nonetheless, the Board of School Directors recognizes that its members may not be able to be physically present at all Board meetings but may nonetheless wish to participate in meetings. The Board further recognizes that advances in technology have made it possible for individuals to interact with others from remote locations through the use of speaker phones, teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing. The Board also acknowledges that participation of members of the Board by way of speakerphone, teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing in a meeting open to the public, convened for the purpose of deliberating agency business or taking official action, does not violate the Sunshine Act.

Policy: Members of the Board who desire to participate in a meeting by means of speaker phone, teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing shall notify the President of the Board, the Board Secretary, and Superintendent at least one (1) business day in advance of the meeting in question, when possible.

The non-present Board member must, at all times during the meeting, be able to hear the comments of and speak to all those present at the meeting, including other Board members and members of the public who speak during the public comment period. Likewise, all those present at the meeting must be able to hear the comments of and, if appropriate, speak to such non-present Board member during the meeting. Any Board member who is participating remotely must be able to contemporaneously access all Board documents for that meeting's agenda, whether via electronically or with hard copies mailed in advance, for the duration of the meeting.

The determination as to whether the member shall be considered present shall be made by the acting Board Secretary. Each Board member participating from a remote location may be requested by any member of the Board then present to declare that he/she is participating prior to the motion for each item on the agenda.

When any member of the Board participates by remote access, all votes shall be by roll call. If for any reason the remote access with the Board member is terminated or malfunctions before the adjournment of the meeting, the meeting shall continue unless the resultant nonparticipation by the non-present Board member results in the loss of a quorum, in which case the meeting shall be adjourned. Such adjournment shall not affect the validity of such actions taken by the Board prior to adjournment.

No Board member shall participate in a meeting remotely, whether via speaker phone, teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing, more than two times during any calendar year, provided however that the Board, by majority vote, may allow a Board member to participate remotely on more than two occasions when conditions or circumstances justify such additional remote participation.

**Responsible
Administrator:** Superintendent