

VOTING METHOD

All motions and votes will be recorded in the minutes. Minimally, the number of members voting in the affirmative and in the negative on any questions shall be recorded in the minutes unless a roll call vote is required by law. When a Board member abstains from voting, such abstention will not be counted as a vote either for or against the proposal, but will be entered in the minutes as an abstention. The president may vote on all questions.

Any Board member, upon request, may submit a written explanation of his or her vote that will be attached to the minutes or stored with the minutes. Any member may also change his or her vote up to the time the result of the vote is announced.

A motion shall pass if a majority of those members present vote in favor of the motion, provided that a quorum is present, unless otherwise prescribed by law or policy. An affirmative vote of the majority of the whole Board is required to enter into a contract, employ a person, approve a bill or issue a warrant. The Board does not need to vote to re-employ a teacher.

Voting in Open Session

Voting in open session must be conducted in a manner that allows the public attending the meeting to observe how each person voted and in a manner that allows the Board secretary to accurately discern and record the number of person voting for or against the motion as well as the persons abstaining from the motion.

The Board may decide to vote by roll call in open session. When an open public vote is not to be taken by roll call, any member may request that the Board be polled on the issue requiring a vote. When voting to adjourn to closed session, the specific reason for closing the meeting must be announced publicly by reference to a specific section of the law, and the vote must be taken by roll call.

In the event a motion is made to close a meeting, record or vote and a Board member believes that the motion, if passed, would violate the Missouri Sunshine Law, the Board member may state his or her objection to the motion before or at the time the vote is taken. The Board secretary will enter the objection in the minutes. Once the objection has been made the Board member shall be allowed to fully participate in the meeting, record or vote even if it is closed over the member's objection. If the Board member voted against the motion to close the meeting, record or vote, the recorded objection and the vote is an absolute defense to any claim filed against the Board member pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law.

Voting in Closed Session

All votes taken in closed session shall be taken by roll call, including the vote to adjourn. The minutes will reflect how each individual Board member voted or that the Board member abstained.

Voting Electronically

The Board may allow members to participate electronically in meetings where other Board members are physically present, and the Board may hold meetings where all Board members participate electronically. The participation may occur by telephone, videoconference or other electronic means. Board members may not simply vote electronically, but must be connected with the meeting throughout the discussion of business and must be able to both hear and participate in the discussion. If a Board member electronically joins the meeting after an item of business has been opened, the remotely located member shall not participate until the next item of business is opened.

In accordance with law, Board members who participate in a meeting by videoconferencing may discuss and vote on issues in both open and closed sessions, regardless of the method by which the vote is taken. Board members participating electronically by other means, such as by telephone, may discuss issues and vote as long as the vote is not made by roll call. Board members participating electronically using methods other than videoconferencing may not cast roll call votes, regardless of whether those votes occur in open or closed session, unless a District emergency exists and a quorum of the Board is physically present at the meeting. If such an emergency exists, the nature of the District emergency shall be stated in the minutes.

Adopted: March 14, 1995

Revised: September 12, 2017
May 27, 2014
May 10, 2011
October 8, 2002
March 13, 2001

Cross Ref.: BDC – Closed Meetings, Records and Votes
BDDE – Rules of Order

Legal Refs: §§ 162 .303, .511, 610.010(7), .015, .020, .022 RSMo.
<http://revisor.mo.gov/main/Home.aspx>
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/>