

# Bylaws

## of the

# Washington State

# Board of Education

Adopted January 8, 2015

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## **ARTICLE I Name**

The name of this agency shall be the Washington State Board of Education.

## **ARTICLE II Purpose**

The purpose of the Washington State Board of Education is to provide advocacy and strategic oversight of public education; implement a standards-based accountability system to improve student academic achievement; provide leadership in the creation of a system that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles; and promote achievement of the Basic Education Act goals of RCW 28A.150.210.

## **ARTICLE III Membership and Responsibilities**

**Section 1. Board composition.** The membership of the Washington State Board of Education is established by the Legislature and specified in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 28A.305.011).

**Section 2. Meeting attendance and preparation.** Members are expected to consistently attend and prepare for board and committee meetings, of which they are members, in order to be effective and active participants. Members are further expected to stay current in their knowledge and understanding of the board's projects and policymaking.

**Section 3. External communication.** Members of the Board should support board decisions and policies when providing information to the public. This does not preclude board members from expressing their personal views. The executive director or a board designee will be the spokesperson for the board with the media.

**Section 4. Board responsibilities.** The board may meet in order to review any concerns presented to the chair or executive committee about a board member's inability to perform as a member or for neglect of duty.

**Section 5. Member designation as external group liaison.** (1) The board chair may designate an individual member as a liaison to an external group.

## **ARTICLE IV Officers**

**Section 1. Designation.** There shall be five officers of the board: the chair, the vice chair, the immediate past chair, when available, and at least two members at-large.

**Section 2. Term of officers.** (1) The chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve for no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(2) The vice chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(3) The members at-large shall serve a term of one-year and may serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms.

(4) (a) The immediate past chair shall serve a term of one-year.

(b) Once the immediate past chair has served her/his one year term, the fifth officer position shall be elected as a member at-large.

**Section 3. Officer elections.** (1) Elections shall be conducted by ballot and in accordance with RCW 42.30.060

(2) **Two-year positions.** (a) The chair and vice chair shall be elected biennially by the board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) Each officer under subsection (1)(a) shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive two-year terms may be served by a Board member as chair, or vice chair.

(3) **One-year position.** (a) The member at-large officer positions shall be elected annually by the Board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) The members of the board elected as members at-large shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive one-year terms may be served by a board member as a member at-large.

(c) The immediate past chair position shall be considered a member at-large position for the purpose of duties and term limits.

(4) **Vacancies.** (a) Upon a vacancy in any officer position, the position shall be filled by election not later than the date of the second ensuing regularly scheduled board meeting. The member elected to fill the vacant officer position shall begin service on the executive committee at the end of the meeting at which she or he was elected and complete the term of office associated with the position.

(b) Time served filling the remainder of a term of office due to vacancy does not count towards the established term limits.

(5) **Ties.** (a) After three tied votes for an officer position, the election shall be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time one final vote will be taken.

(b) If the final vote results in a tie, all candidate names shall be placed in a receptacle and the election for the officer position shall be decided by a blind draw of a candidate name from the receptacle by the chair.

**Section 4. Duties.** (1) **Chair.** The chair shall preside at the meetings of the board, serve as chair of the executive committee, make committee and liaison appointments, be the official voice for the board in matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities, and otherwise be responsible for the conduct of the business of the board.

(2) **Vice Chair.** The vice chair shall preside at board meetings in the absence of the chair, sit on the executive committee, and assist the chair as may be requested by the chair. When the chair is not available, the vice chair shall be the official voice for the board in all matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities.

(3) **Immediate Past Chair.** The immediate past chair shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee. If the immediate past chair is not available to serve, a member of the board will be elected in her/his place and shall serve as a member at-large.

(4) **Members At-Large.** The members at-large shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee.

(5) Members serving as officers of the board may continue to participate in board debates and vote on business items.

## **ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1. Executive committee.** (1) (a) The executive committee shall consist of the chair, the vice chair, two members at-large, and the immediate past chair, if available, or third member at-large as elected.

(b) The executive committee shall be responsible for the management of affairs that are delegated to it as a result of Board direction, consensus or motion, including transacting necessary business in the intervals between board meetings, inclusive of preparing agendas for board meetings.

(c) The executive committee shall be responsible for oversight of the budget.

(2) When there is a vacancy of an officer position, the vacant position shall be filled pursuant to the election process in the Board Procedures Manual.

(3) The board chair shall serve as the chair of the executive committee.

(4) The executive committee shall meet at least monthly.

(5) The executive committee shall assure that the board annually conducts a board review and evaluation.

(6) Agendas for each meeting of the executive committee shall be provided to all board members prior to each executive committee meeting.

(7) Minutes for each meeting of the executive committee shall be provided to all board members promptly after each executive committee meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI Meetings**

**Section 1. Regular meetings.** (1) The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings, including an annual planning meeting, and other special meetings as needed at a time and place within the state as the board shall determine.

(2) The board shall hold a minimum of four meetings yearly, including the annual planning meeting.

(3) A board meeting may be conducted by conference telephone call or by use of video/telecommunication conferencing. Such meetings shall be conducted in a manner that all members participating can hear each other at the same time and that complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Section 2. Agenda preparation.** (1) The agenda shall be prepared by the executive committee in consultation with the executive director.

(2) Members of the board may submit proposed agenda items to the board chair or the executive director.

(3) In consultation with the executive committee, the board chair, or executive director at the direction of the chair, will give final approval of all items and changes that will appear on the agenda at a board meeting prior to being sent to board members.

(4) The full agenda, with supporting materials, shall be provided to the members of the board at least one week in advance of the board meeting, in order that members may have ample opportunity for study of agenda items listed for action.

(5) The board chair may modify the agenda and items as needed following finalization and provision to board members.

(6) (a) If a member proposes a new agenda item (as described in subsection 2) and it is not included on the final agenda, any member may bring the agenda item for consideration to the board.

(b) If the board passes a motion in support of including the agenda item, the item shall be included on the agenda at a future meeting.

**Section 3. Board action.** (1) All matters within the powers and duties of the board as defined by law shall be acted upon by the board in a properly called regular or special meeting.

(2) A quorum of eight (8) voting members must be present in person, or by telephone or video telecommunications, to conduct the business of the board.

(3)(a) Subject to the presence of a quorum, the minimum number of favorable votes necessary to take official board action is a majority of the voting members present. There shall be no proxy voting.

(b) In order to vote at a meeting conducted by telephone or video telecommunications conference call, members must be present for the discussion of the issue upon which action will be taken by vote.

(4) The manner in which votes will be conducted to take official board action shall be determined by the board chair. A roll call vote shall be conducted upon the request of an individual member or the chair.

(5) All regular and special meetings of the board shall be held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW).

**Section 4. Consent agenda.** (1) Routine matters and waiver requests meeting established guidelines may be presented to the board on a consent agenda.

(2) Items shall be removed from the consent agenda upon the request of an individual board member.

(3) Items removed from the consent agenda shall be added to the regular agenda for further consideration.

**Section 5. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the State Board of Education in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, state law and any special rules of order the State Board of Education may adopt.

## **ARTICLE VII Committees**

**Section 1. Designation.** (1) Responsibilities of the board may be referred to committee for deeper discussion, reflection and making recommendations to the whole board.

(2) The board chair shall appoint at least two board members to each committee to conduct the business of the board.

(3) The board chair or executive director shall inform the board of the formation of any committee and of the appointment of members to that committee.

(4) Board members of committees of the board shall determine which board member shall chair the committee.

## **ARTICLE VIII Executive Director**

**Section 1. Appointment.** The board may appoint an executive director.

**Section 2. Duties.** (1) The executive director shall perform such duties as may be determined by the board and shall serve as secretary and non-voting member of the board. The executive director shall house records of the board's proceedings in the board's office and the records shall be available upon request. The executive director is responsible for the performance and operations of the office and for staff support of board member duties.

(2) The board shall establish or modify a job description for the executive director, as needed.

**Section 3. Annual evaluation.** (1) The board shall establish or modify the evaluation procedure of the executive director, as needed,

(2) The annual evaluation of the executive director shall be undertaken by the board no earlier than one year after the job description or evaluation tool is established or modified. Subsequent to the evaluation, the chair, or chair's designee, will communicate the results to the executive director. If available, the vice chair shall participate in the communication.

**Section 4. Compensation of the executive director.** The rate of compensation and terms of employment of the executive director shall be subject to the prior approval of the board at the planning meeting.

**Section 5: Termination and discipline of the executive director.** (1) Decisions regarding the termination and discipline of the executive director shall be subject to the approval of the board.

(2) Decisions regarding the termination and discipline of the executive director may be made at a regular or special meeting if action is required prior to the next scheduled annual planning meeting.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Amending Bylaws**

**Section 1. Amending bylaws.**

(1) These bylaws may be amended only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting board members present at the meeting.

(2) All members shall be given notification of proposed amendments to the bylaws at the meeting preceding the meeting at which the bylaws are to be amended.

(3) The board shall review the bylaws every two years.

**Section 2. Suspending bylaws.** These bylaws may be suspended at any meeting only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting board members present at the meeting.