

BYLAWS

SECOND READING
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Use of Cell/Text During Meetings

0170 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY BOARD MEMBERS AT PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes that communicating electronically (i.e., e-mail, social network site, text messaging, instant messaging) is an efficient and convenient way to exchange information on school matters. However, the Board of Education recognizes that the use of such electronic means to communicate during public meetings, by board members, may create the impression that board members are deliberating regarding issues that are the subject of the public meeting session, contrary to the spirit of the Open Public Meetings Act. Thus, during public board meetings, board members shall not communicate electronically.

The use of cell phones and/or text messaging by board members at public meetings and executive sessions shall conform to the following guidelines:

- A. Board members shall not use cell phones or text messaging as a substitute for deliberations at public board meetings or executive sessions.
- B. During a public meeting or an executive session, board members shall not use their cell phone and/or engage in text messaging.
- C. In the event it becomes necessary for a board member to use his or her cell phone or engage in text messaging during a public meeting or an executive session, the board member shall immediately excuse himself/herself from the meeting and return only when the call or messaging has been completed.

This policy shall not be interpreted to preclude the integration of technology at board meetings to support board member participation; thus, the Board of Education encourages the use of electronic devices (including but not limited to laptop computers, iPads, tablets, and/or notebook computers) by board members at board meetings so long as board members do not utilize those devices to communicate electronically during the meeting. Further, this policy should not be interpreted to preclude board members who may need to communicate electronically during the course of a board meeting; under those circumstances, the board member shall excuse him/herself from the board meeting for that purpose.



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Adopted: 20 December 2010

Revised: 22 October 2012

