

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Board of Education Meetings

A “meeting” is defined as an official convening of a public body for the purpose of conducting public business. “Public body” is defined in the Michigan Open Meetings Act and includes the board of education. Committees and subcommittees may also be public bodies. The Okemos Board of Education, as a representative body of the district and in keeping with its mission and goals, invites and encourages members of the community to attend its meetings and to more fully understand its work.

Meetings of the board are held in public to carry on the business of the schools. Each meeting of the board is scheduled to consider and act upon specific items of business as listed on the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda is prepared and available in advance of the meeting. The meeting agenda may be changed by the board at a board meeting with the unanimous approval of those board members present.

Regular meetings of the board occur on the day and time designated by the board at the annual organizational meeting, except as modified at subsequent meetings of the board, and are posted on the district’s Web site.

All board of education meetings must be open to the public, except those portions of meetings that the Okemos Board of Education qualify as executive sessions. An “executive session” is that portion of a meeting that is closed to the public according to the permissible purposes and conditions cited in the Michigan Open Meetings Act. The board shall designate a person to keep separate minutes of each closed meeting of the board. These minutes shall be retained by the secretary of the board but shall not be available to the public and shall only be disclosed if required by a civil action filed under M.C.L.A. 15.270 et. seq. These minutes may be destroyed one (1) year and one (1) day after approval of the minutes of the regular meeting at which the closed session was approved.

All action by the Okemos Board of Education is taken during school board meetings held in public. In accordance with the authority and responsibility vested in it by law, the board acts on behalf of all the citizens on matters pertaining to public education. The board welcomes advice and suggestions, but it cannot abdicate its statutory obligation to make decisions.

The board provides opportunities for any citizen to express interest in and concerns about the schools. Public comments and suggestions are always welcome and various means are available whereby the public may make their views known to the board:

- The public is cordially invited to attend school board meetings. The views of the public, including community organizations, are important and helpful but must be presented in an orderly way. Consequently, procedures have provided various channels for public participation within the regular plan of meetings. [See board policies listed in the last paragraph below.]
- The public may mail or deliver correspondence to the board at the following address: Okemos Board of Education, 4406 North Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 (Okemos Road at Mt. Hope); or email correspondence to the following email address: board@okemoschools.net. Copies of such communications will be given to all board members.
- The public, individually or collectively, may request in writing the opportunity to appear before the board in a public or private hearing on a stated topic of concern or to discuss matters of mutual interest as per the Open Meetings Act.

Information is provided for the public on the district's Web site <http://www.okemoschools.net> under the heading Board of Education that includes, but is not limited to, the following: the annual schedule of regular board meetings; board meeting agenda and minutes; board contact information; notice of upcoming regular and/or special board or committee meetings; and information about participation at school board meetings.

The 9000 series of school board policy contains detailed information concerning meetings of the Okemos board of education. These include policy 9361, Board of Education Meetings Held in Public, and 9368.3, Public Participation in Meetings.

Reference:

Michigan Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976 as amended.
MCLA 15.267, 15.269, 15.270-71, 15.273

Policy

Adopted: 01-74

Amended: 07-24-06

Reviewed: