

**SERIES 100
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

181.1

PRINCIPLES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Unless otherwise noted in this policy and accompanying rule, all meetings of the School Board shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order for Small Bodies, Revised and follow the generally accepted four principles of parliamentary procedure.

1. Majority rules. This principle has several components, starting with the concept that School Board members alone have no legal power. The Board, then, must act as a body for its decision to be binding. And, except in those areas specified by state law, the Board is bound by the decisions of the majority.

The majority rules principle is first one of practicality, since meeting time is too precious to allow every debate to run on until consensus is reached. However, the closer the Board can come to consensus, the better. It also is a way to strengthen and preserve the Board's group identity because the minority is bound to support the majority's action.

2. Equal opportunity decision making. All Board members, according to this second principle, should have an equal chance to speak to the issue before the Board.
3. Decisions based on merit. The third principle states that the Board's action should be based entirely on merit, not on manipulation of procedural rules. Deliberation should focus on issues, not people.
4. Efficient proceedings. The first three principles are part of this fourth principle, which is augmented by these ideas:
 - a. Discussions should be orderly, with no Board member randomly or spontaneously interrupting another who has the floor.
 - b. Board members should proceed as though time is of the essence, wandering neither to the left nor to the right in personal reminiscences or redundancies.
 - c. Board members should know their rules of procedure and the principles behind them.

Cross Reference: 141, Board Officers
 165, Code of Conduct
 171.1 Public Notification of Board Meetings
 181, Rules of Order
 183, Voting Method

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