

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Educational matters should be discussed, and decisions made, at public meetings of the Columbia Board of Education to fulfill the rationale for the creation of public governing bodies. However, some matters are more properly discussed by the Board in private session. As permitted by law, such matters may involve the following:

1. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employees or regulated individuals, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or regulated individual unless such person requests a public hearing. The Board will not hold an executive session for the discipline or one of its members for conduct related to the performance of his/her official duties or for his/her removal from office;
2. to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive bargaining advantage to a person whose private interest is adverse to the general public interest;
3. specialized details of security arrangements where disclosure of the matters discussed might reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing, or avoiding prosecution for, a violation of the law;
4. matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes;
5. preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees;
6. in-person conferences with an attorney for the Board concerning disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action; and
7. consideration of confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance provided that:
 - A. the information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under provisions of State law authorized in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8)(1), or involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project and
 - B. a unanimous quorum of the Board has determined by a roll call vote the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

Conferences with a member of the office of the State Auditor or an appointed certified public accountant for the purpose of an audit are not considered meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act (Sunshine Law).

The Board meets in executive session only to discuss legally authorized matters. Executive sessions are held only as part of a regular or special meeting and only after a majority of the quorum determines, by a roll-call vote, to hold such a session.

Where the Board holds an executive session for any of the reasons stated ~~under Paragraph 4~~ above, the motion and vote to hold the executive session shall state one or more of the purposes listed under such paragraph for which the executive session is to be held, but need not include the name of any person to be considered in the executive session. The minutes shall reflect the information described above.

In accordance with law, no official action may be taken in executive session. To take final action on any matter discussed, the Board will reconvene in open session.

The Board may invite staff members, in addition to the Superintendent, or others, to attend closed sessions at its discretion.

Board members, treasurer and administrators shall not disclose or use, without appropriate authorization, any information acquired in the course of official duties which is confidential because of statutory provisions or which has been clearly designated as confidential because of the status of proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was received.

Current practice codified

Adopted: Date of Manual Adoption
Revised: November 16, 1988
Revised: November 20, 2013

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 102.03
121.22

CROSS REFS.: AFBA, Evaluation of the Treasurer (Also BCCB)
BCD, Board-Superintendent Relationship (Also CBI)
BCE, Board Committees
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board
BD, School Board Meetings
BDDG, Minutes
KBA, Public's Right to Know
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio