

0168 RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS

The Mendham Township Board of Education directs the creation and maintenance of an official record of the formal proceedings of the Board and will permit the unofficial recording of Board meetings in accordance with this Bylaw.

Minutes

The Board shall keep reasonably comprehensible minutes of all its meetings showing the date, time, and place, the members present, the subject considered, the actions taken, the vote of each member, information sufficient to explain the actions taken, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law.

Minutes of public meetings shall be public records signed by the Board Secretary and filed in the Board Secretary's office in a minute book as the permanent record of the acts of this Board.

Minutes of executive meetings shall be filed in the Board Secretary's office in a place separate from the minute book until the time, if any, when the proceedings may be made public. At that time, the minutes shall be public records and shall be filed in the regular minute book. When a closed meeting deals with more than one privileged matter, the minutes shall be prepared in such a way that each matter can be separated and disclosed in a timely manner.

The Board shall endeavor to approve the minutes at the following month's board meeting but will have up to the 60 days as allowed per N.J.S.A 18A:17-7 code. The Board Secretary shall provide each Board member with a copy of the minutes at least 72 hours prior to Board approval. Following approval, minutes shall be posted on the District website in a timely manner.

Recording by the Public

A member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board provided the audio or video recording process complies with reasonable guidelines as outlined in this Bylaw. These guidelines are adopted to ensure the recording of the public meeting does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of audio or video recording devices by members of the public to record public meetings.



Prior notice to audio or video record a public meeting is not required provided the person operates the recording device while sitting in the area designated by the Board for public seating. The recording of a meeting from this area shall not obstruct or distract any member of the public from observing and listening to the proceedings of the meeting. If the recording is obstructing the view or is distracting to members of the public, the presiding officer or designee will require the person recording the meeting to relocate to another area of the meeting room.

In the event a member of the public wants or needs to audio or video record a public meeting from an area other than the area designated for public seating, the person shall provide notice of such request to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting. The Board Secretary or designee shall review the recording guidelines outlined in this Bylaw with the person requesting to record the meeting.

Any member of the public wanting to use a recording device from an area other than the area designated for public seating must be located and operated from inconspicuous locations in the meeting room as determined by the presiding officer or designee. Prior to the meeting, the presiding officer or designee will determine the location of each recording device so each video recording device can record the meeting with an unobstructed view and each audio recording device can record a meeting so the speakers and meeting proceedings can be properly recorded. The location of any recording device operated from an area other than the area designated for public seating will be in an area of the meeting room that is not distracting or obtrusive to Board members, members of the public, or the orderly operation of the meeting. Any recording device used outside the area designated for public seating shall be located within a similar distance from the Board as the public seating area. The presiding officer or designee shall determine when the number of recording devices used outside the area designated for public seating interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering recording device be removed or relocated.

Additional lighting shall not be used unless approved by the presiding officer or designee prior to the meeting. All recording devices and any related equipment must be battery operated or operational without the use of district electricity as the district will not permit such equipment to be connected to the school district's electrical service.

The presiding officer or designee shall determine if a recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be relocated.

Live Streaming of Meetings by the Board of Education

The Board may live stream the formal proceedings of the Board of Education as a courtesy to the public. The Board of Education may utilize a live streaming platform to make the meeting



available to the public for live viewing. Remote public comment will not be available during a live stream meeting. Meeting recordings will be maintained and available on the District's website until such time as the Board of Education approves by law the official minutes of the meeting in discussion after which all recordings will be permanently discarded. At that time, the minutes shall be the public record of that meeting and shall be filed in the official minute book.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

Adopted: 17 December 2013

Revised: 23 May 2016

Revised: 21 March 2023

