



# Horsham Downs School

## Board Meeting Procedures

The Horsham Downs School board is committed to effective and efficient meetings and, to this end, sets out the following guidelines for the conduct of board meetings.

### Timing of meetings

- Dates and times of meetings will be set in the board workplan and usually held on the Wednesday of weeks 3 and 8 of the school term, starting at 5:00pm and finishing no later than 7.30pm.
- A resolution for an extension of time may be moved but will not normally exceed 30 minutes.
- Any business remaining on the agenda at the conclusion of the meeting is transferred to the following meeting

### Agenda and meeting papers

- The presiding member is responsible, in liaison with the principal, for the preparation of an agenda prior to each meeting
- The principal is to ensure that secretarial services are provided to the board
- Agenda items are to be notified to the presiding member no later than the Friday prior to the meeting
- The agenda and board papers will be circulated to board members at least 3 working days prior to the meeting
- The board should have access to all correspondence. Correspondence that requires the board to take some action should be photocopied/scanned and distributed prior to the meeting. Other correspondence can be listed and tabled so that board members can read it if required
- The agenda for the part of each meeting that is open to the public will be posted on the board's section of the school website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and copies made available at the meeting place for any members of the public
- The agenda is to be collated with the items placed in order and marked with an agenda item number
- Agenda items will reference relevant strategic goals and board policies
- Late agenda items will only be accepted with the approval of the board and in rare circumstances where a decision is urgent
- All items in the agenda are to carry a recommended course of action and where appropriate be supplemented by supporting material in the meeting documentation.
- Papers requiring reading and consideration will not normally be accepted if tabled at the meeting.
- The order of the agenda may be varied by resolution at the meeting

### Public participation

- The board meeting is a meeting open to the public rather than a public meeting
- Only members of the board have automatic speaking rights
- Public participation is at the discretion of the board
- Public attending the meeting, including staff members not elected as the staff representative, are given a notice about their rights regarding attendance at the meeting

### Exclusion of the public

- The meeting may, by resolution, exclude the public (going into committee) and news media from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).<sup>\*</sup> The wording to be used in the motion to exclude the public is found in Schedule 2A of LGOIMA (see Annex A). The board must make the reasons for excluding the public clear. Excluding the public is most often used to ensure privacy of individuals or financially sensitive issues
- Persons may be asked to remain after the public has been excluded because they possess knowledge that will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed. The board must pass a resolution that they may remain<sup>\*</sup>

### Conduct of meetings

- A quorum of more than half the members currently holding office is required for the board to be able to conduct any business\*
- Meetings can be held via audio, audio and visual or electronic communication providing:
  - all board members who wish to participate in the meeting have access to the technology needed to participate, and
  - a quorum of members can simultaneously communicate with each other throughout the meeting\*
- Board members will declare any conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting
- Any board members with a conflict of interest or pecuniary interest in any issue shall not take part in any debate, deliberation or decision making on such issues. They must be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the debate, deliberation or decision making.\* A pecuniary interest arises when a board member may be financially advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of decisions made by the board (contracts, pay and conditions). A conflict of interest is when an individual board member could have or could be thought to have a personal stake in matters to be considered by the board
- The presiding member shall be appointed by election at the first meeting of the year except in the triennial election year where it will be at the first meeting of the newly elected board\*
- The elected presiding member (or, in their absence, a non-school-based board member) presides at meetings
- Only apologies received from those who cannot be present must be recorded. Members of the board who miss three consecutive meetings without the prior leave of the board cease to be members.\* An apology does not meet the requirement of prior leave. To obtain prior leave, a board member must request leave from the board at a board meeting, and the board must make a decision whether or not to grant it
- Points of order are questions directed to the presiding member that require an answer or a ruling. They are not open to debate and usually relate to the rules for the running of a meeting
- The board's normal meeting procedures may be suspended by resolution of the meeting
- A board may, by resolution and in writing either generally or specifically, delegate any of the functions or powers of the board or of a board member in accordance with the Education (School Boards) Regulations 2020

## Decision-making process

- All board decisions are made in light of board policy and the board's primary objectives of ensuring that; every student at the school is able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement; the school is an inclusive and safe place for all students and staff; the school gives effect to relevant students' rights and gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- All decisions are to be taken by open voting by all board members present
- In the event of tied voting on a resolution, the presiding member may exercise a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote\*
- A motion is a formal proposal for consideration. All motions and amendments moved in debate must be seconded unless moved by the presiding member and are then open for discussion
- Motions and amendments once proposed and accepted may not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting
- No further amendments may be accepted until the first one is disposed of
- The mover of a motion has right of reply
- A matter already discussed may not be reintroduced at the same meeting in any guise or by way of an amendment
- When a matter cannot be resolved or when further information is necessary before a decision can be made, the matter can be left unresolved for future discussion

## Minutes

- Board meeting minutes will be taken by a contracted, paid minute secretary who is not a member of the board
- The minutes are to clearly show resolutions and action points and who is to complete the action
- Minutes are sent to the presiding member for checking within 3 working days and distributed electronically to the board within seven working days. Requests for corrections or amendments should be submitted by email to the presiding member as soon as possible to ensure accurate minutes can be confirmed at the next meeting
- Minutes to be tabled for approval should be included in documentation made available to all board members prior to the meeting
- Once minutes are approved as true and correct, recordings of that meeting are to be deleted

## Calling special meetings

- If the Board has adopted procedures regarding special (extraordinary) meetings, then those would apply
- In the absence of board procedures, a special meeting may be called by the presiding member. Otherwise, one third of board members currently holding office agreeing to call a special meeting would be good practice

\* Legislative requirement

# Public attending board meetings

**The board fosters open and transparent governance. It welcomes public attendance at and observation of board meetings. Members of the public include staff, students and parents' families and whānau of the school community who are not members of the board.**

A copy of the following procedures will be provided to members of the public attending meetings so that they understand the rules that apply and are to be followed unless otherwise authorised by the board:

- Board meetings are not public meetings but meetings held in public
- If the meeting moves to exclude the public (usually to protect the privacy of individuals), members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting until this aspect of business has been concluded (See Annex A)
- Members of the public may be given copies of the meeting agenda and associated reports
- Members of the public may request speaking rights on a particular item that is on the agenda. Preferably, this request will have been made in advance. Public participation is at the discretion of the board
- Speakers shall be restricted to a maximum of 3 minutes each per subject, with a time limit of 15 minutes per interest group
- No more than 2 speakers will be permitted on any one agenda item
- Speakers are not to question the board and must speak to the agenda item
- Board members will not address questions or statements to speakers
- Speakers shall not be disrespectful or offensive or make malicious statements or claims
- If the person presiding over the meeting believes that any of these conditions have been breached or the speaker has gone over time, they may be asked to finish

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This procedure approved by the board 12 April 2024

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# Local Government Official Information and Meetings Amendment Act 1987

## Schedule 2A

### Resolution to exclude the public

[s 48\(3\), \(4\), \(5\), \(6\)](#)

Schedule 2A: inserted, on 1 October 1991, by section 8 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Amendment Act 1991 (1991 No 54).

[Section 48](#), *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

I move that the public be excluded from—

- \*(a)  
the whole of the proceedings of this meeting; or
- \*(b)  
the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,—  
[*state agenda items*]

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under [section 48\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
—	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—

\*This resolution is made in reliance on [section 48\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) of that Act or [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) or [section 9](#) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

[*give particulars*]

\*I also move that [*name of person or persons*] be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of [*specify*]. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because [*specify*].

\*Delete if inapplicable.

### Note

[Section 48\(4\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- “(4)  
Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof)—
- (a)  
shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
  - (b)  
shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”