

## **Welcome to a District 96 Board Meeting**

### **What is the District 96 Board of Education?**

The Board of Education is the governing body of District 96. It consists of seven district residents elected to serve the community. Each member volunteers for a four-year term.

### **What does the Board do?**

The Board of Education sets district policy, approves educational goals, authorizes district expenditures, and hires the Superintendent.

Only the Board, acting as a whole and in its official capacity, is vested with the authority to make decisions on behalf of the district. Individual board members can only offer their personal opinions on issues and cannot, as individuals, make binding decisions on behalf of the Board.

### **What happens at a Committee of the Whole or Regular Board Meeting?**

Committee of the Whole Meetings are typically held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Regular Meetings are typically held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Please visit the district's website ([www.district96.org](http://www.district96.org)) for meeting dates and times.

Generally, at a Regular Meeting, the Superintendent and district staff update the Board about district finances, facilities, and educational goals and initiatives. The Superintendent may also recommend that the Board take specific action on items it discusses. Typically, a Board vote on any item does not occur at the meeting when the item is first discussed.

A Board vote on policies, programs, and expenditures can only occur in an open session (in public). At some meetings, however, the Board may adjourn into closed session (apart from the public). Closed sessions are allowed by law due to the sensitive nature of some discussion topics. Board of Education Policy [2:200](#) itemizes a list of permissible closed-session topics.

In order to maintain transparency and openness in our meetings, all of our discussions need to take place in public. We conduct our meetings in accordance with Policy 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure). There is an opportunity for public comment during every Board meeting. The Board welcomes and encourages the community to engage with them at all board meetings, and therefore, time is available at each meeting for audience members to address the Board. The Board has set aside two specific times in the Agenda for Public Comment. Please understand the Board will not respond to your questions and concerns during the meeting but will likely ask the Superintendent to follow up with you regarding them. Please identify yourself by name and address (provided the speaker is willing to share their address) and be brief. Ordinarily, comments shall be limited to 5 minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson. Comments pertaining to individual students or staff are not permitted.

### **How to contact the Board?**

You may email [BOEMembers@district96.org](mailto:BOEMembers@district96.org), which will forward your message to all members. Please visit [Meet your board members](#) and [Board policy manual](#).