

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 5:00 PM

Gothenburg High School Media Center
1322 Avenue I
Gothenburg, NE 69138

The mission of Gothenburg Public Schools is to prepare all students to become lifelong learners within a positive and innovative learning environment.

Attendance Taken at 5:04 PM:

Present Board Members: **Other Present:**

Seth Ryker

Ellen Mortenson -- Times

Allison Jonas

Jay Holmes

James Widdifield

Tyler Herman

Mary Meisinger

Michael Teahon, Superintendent

Kay Streeter, Business Manager

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approve the Agenda

3. Recognition of Visitors

1. Public Participation

4. Discussion Items

5. Next Meeting

6. Adjournment

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationAgenda Construction and Control

- A. Written meeting agendas will be prepared by the Superintendent of Schools in corroboration with the President of the Board of Education. Any Board member may submit agenda items to be placed on the agenda by the Superintendent and the Board President.
- B. Control of the agenda is the responsibility of the Board President.
- C. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting.
- D. An agenda, kept continuously current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent of School of the Gothenburg School District during normal business hours. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The School Board shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only by action taken at the public meeting at which the item is to be considered.

Legal Reference: § 84-1411

Date of Adoption: November 13, 2006

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationProcedures During Meetings

In the absence of the President and the Vice President of the Board of Education at any meeting, the Board shall choose a President pro tempore. In the absence of the Secretary at any meeting, the Board shall also choose a Secretary pro tempore.

Any action taken on a question or a motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or abstained.

The vote to elect the leadership of the Board of Education at the reorganization meeting shall be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Legal Reference: §79-569
 §79-520
 §84-1413

Date of Adoption: April 14, 2008

Bylaws of the Board - MeetingsRegular Meetings

The Board shall meet in regular session on the second Monday of each calendar month, unless otherwise designated by the president with the approval of the Board. All meetings shall be held in the boardroom at the Gothenburg Schools unless otherwise designated by the president with the approval of the Board. In each odd-numbered year, the January meeting will be held on or after the first Thursday after the first Tuesday.

Legal Reference: §79-554 §79-555 §84-1401

Special Meetings

A special meeting of the Board may be called by the president when in his opinion it is necessary, or upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, or any two (2) Board members. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting, which does not come within the purpose, or purposes set forth in the call for the meeting unless it is of an emergency nature. Special Board sessions may be adjourned to a definite date and time.

Legal Reference: §79-520 §79-554 §79-555 §84-1401

Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials

The Board shall require the Superintendent to prepare an agenda which, with the minutes, shall be mailed or delivered to the Board members on Friday or prior to each regular monthly Board meeting.

Items not placed on the regular agenda may be tabled until the regular meeting on the following month to provide the Board adequate time to research the item in question. All citizens in the district boundary are permitted to place an item on the agenda. Those persons outside the district may place an item on the agenda by permission of the President of the Board or the Superintendent of Schools.

Order of Business

The following shall be the order of business for the regular meetings. The order of business may be changed by consent of all members present.

Meeting call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval/Changes to Agenda, Recognition of Visitors, Business Items (Consent Agenda, Action Items, Policy Review, and Reports), Discussion Items, Time/Date of Next Meeting, Adjournment.

Parliamentary Procedure

The rules of parliamentary procedures as embodied in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the school Board in its deliberation when the issue in question is not covered by these policies and bylaws.

Minutes

The Board of Education shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed. The minutes shall be prepared by the secretary immediately following the meeting, shall be written, shall be available for inspection by the public and for distribution to the members of the Board within ten (10) working days, or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, and shall be a part of the agenda for the next regular meeting at which time they shall be corrected, if necessary, and approved. The minutes shall be kept in the office of the superintendent and shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

Legal Reference: §79-577 §79-555 §§ 84-1408-1414

Voting

Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirement of a roll call or viva voce vote may be satisfied by used of an electronic voting device, which allows the yeas and nays of each member of the board to be readily seen by the public.

Date of Adoption: May 12, 2008

Date of Revision: August 8, 2016

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationOpportunity for Public Expression

The Board of Education as a representative body, recognizes the importance of the public's viewpoint relative to the direction of the educational programs in Gothenburg Public Schools. Therefore, the following guidelines have been established for patrons to efficiently and effectively give expression to their suggestions, concerns, and grievances:

- A. Public Forum - Each Board meeting shall have on its agenda a specific time entitled Public Forum, during which patrons may address the Board on matters of general concern. Patrons wishing to address the Board during the Public Forum will be allowed five (5) minutes to express their view. Board of Education members will refrain from expressing personal opinions during the Public Forum unless asked a direct question by a patron recognized by the Board President as having the floor. The Board imposed time limit may be extended by a majority vote of the Board following a request to do so. Board action may not be taken on matters discussed during the Public Forum unless the matter specifically appears on the prepared agenda. In the discretion of the Board President, the Public Forum may be omitted or bypassed at some, but not all, meetings of the Board of Education.
- B. Concerns and Complaints - Board action shall not be taken regarding a concern or complaint unless the following procedure has been followed:
 - Step 1. All Complaints concerning a particular school situation shall be submitted to the Principal of the building. They should be submitted in writing when practical. If the party involved is other than an individual, then the organization or persons represented shall be identified. If the problem involves other than an individual building, then the matter shall be directed to the Superintendent.
 - Step 2. Should the matter not be resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved, they may appeal to the Superintendent.
 - Step 3. If the initiating party is not satisfied with the response of the Superintendent, said party may address a written appeal to the Board of Education through the Secretary of the Board.
- C. Speak to Agenda Item - Patrons or visitors who desire to have an item placed on the monthly Board meeting agenda and speak on that item should make their wishes known to the Superintendent prior to the distribution of the meeting agenda. Upon receipt of a request to be heard the Superintendent may, in the discretion of the Superintendent, place the item on the agenda. The Board President shall then allow the patron or visitors to address the Board at the appropriate time. The length of this presentation will be determined at the discretion of the Board President. Persons who wish to speak to an agenda item will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Legal Reference: §84-1412

Date of Adoption: July 14, 2008