

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The Board of Education may hold executive sessions at which only the members of the Board or persons invited by the Board may be present. However, the executive session is only available for the purpose of discussion, and except as the law allows, formal action must be taken in an open session.

Executive sessions can be requested by any member of the Board or the Superintendent.

A Board member must make a motion during an open meeting to convene in executive session. Upon a majority vote of its members, the Board may convene in executive session at a place which the Board President or said members may designate within the district to discuss the subjects enumerated below. Matters which may be considered in executive session are:

1. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
2. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
3. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
4. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
5. collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law);
6. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
7. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and

The motion to go into executive session must be detailed enough to allow the public to understand the topic the Board will be discussing, without disclosing specifics. Discussion in executive session will be limited to the topic(s) identified in the motion.

A Board may not take action in executive session except to vote on disciplinary charges against a tenured teacher.

Individual Board members, acting on their own, cannot disclose matters discussed in a properly convened executive session. However, the Board, acting as a whole, may decide to disclose such information where disclosure is not prohibited under the law. Additionally, disclosure of such information is not prohibited where it is warranted to appropriate law enforcement entities for investigation and possible action, or where a board member is compelled to reveal the information in a court case.

Minutes will be taken at executive sessions of any action that is taken by a formal vote and should consist of a record or summary of the final determination of such action and the date and vote thereon, provided, however, that such summary need not include any matter which is

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not required to be made public by the Freedom of Information Law. Minutes taken will be available to the public within one week from the date of the executive session.

Cross-ref: 2160, Code of Ethics

Ref: Education Law §1708 (3)
Public Officers Law §§100 et seq.
Appeal of Rivers, 60 EDR Dec. No 17,989 (2021)
Application of the Board of Education, 57 EDR Dec. No. 17,147 (2017)
Application of Nett and Raby, 45 EDR 259 (2005)
Formal Opinion of Counsel No. 239, 16 EDR 457 (1976)

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