

Activity: Observation Assignment of Local School Board Meeting

Background Information

ROLE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ESTABLISHING POLICY

The Board of Education, under the law, is charged with the responsibility of setting policy for the School District. In order to carry out that responsibility, the Chippewa Valley School Board employs a Superintendent of Schools. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Superintendent is accountable to the Board of Education. This accountability requires that the Superintendent be kept advised of problems and that the Superintendent have the authority to control the utilization of the staff of the District. Discussions held in closed session in accordance with MCL 15.268(a) and other applicable law shall be confidential, and no Board Member or other participant shall disclose the contents thereof without the permission of a majority of the Board.

EXPECTATIONS FOR AUDIENCE CONDUCT

Demonstrations will not be allowed in the meeting room during Board of Education meetings. Placards, banners, signs, flags larger than 8" x 11" are not permitted in the Board of Education meeting room. Pagers and cell phones are expected to be turned off or put on the silent mode in the Board of Education meeting room. Any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings shall not be permitted by the presiding officer. The presiding officer is authorized to order a meeting of the Board of Education adjourned, adjourned to clear the meeting room, or to remove disruptive individuals or groups at any time if the legislative decorum of the meeting is disrupted by members of the audience and the audience does not observe a request by the presiding officer for restoration of order.

Please visit the following site for more information on the Open Meetings Act for the State of Michigan
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/OMA_handbook_287134_7.pdf

The School Board Observation Report

The report should be approximately two to three single-spaced typed pages to discuss your observations and reactions to the school board meeting.

Part I: Overview of the meeting

Your overview should address

- A brief description of the people present at the meeting, both on the board and in the audience.
- An overview of the items on the agenda for that meeting.
- A brief description of any noteworthy occurrences during the open session of the meeting.

Part II: Reaction and Reflection of the meeting

School board meetings are often forums for intense discussion and debate. For this assignment we would like you to write a **reflective reaction** to either the meeting in general or to a specific board agenda item.