



SECTION: 131

TITLE: Participation in Public Meetings Through Use of Electronic Communication Equipment

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1	I. PURPOSE	The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District recognizes that, from	1
2		time to time, factors such as weather conditions, illness, travel and scheduling	2
3		difficulties make it difficult for members of the Board to be physically present	3
4		at Board meetings. The Board further recognizes that advances in technology	4
5		have made it possible for individuals to interact with others at remote	5
6		locations through the use of teleconferencing. Moreover, the Board	6
7		recognizes that the District's effective use of teleconferencing will help	7
8		promote the technological capabilities of the District and the use of such	8
9		technology by students and other persons.	9
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11		It is the desire and intention of the Board to adopt a policy which would	11
12		permit a maximum of one (1) Board member to participate in a Public	12
13		Board Meeting by teleconferencing. Each Board member may participate by	13
14		teleconferencing in a maximum of one (1) Public Board Meeting in one (1)	14
15		calendar year.	15
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17	II. AUTHORITY	Subject to this policy, a member of the Board may attend a Public Board	17
18		Meeting, may participate in Board deliberations and actions, at the Public	18
19	SCHOOL CODE -	Meeting and may vote at the Public Meeting as if present in person by	19
20	24 P.S. SEC. 407	teleconferencing if s/he cannot attend the Public Meeting due to inclement	20
21		weather, illness, travel or scheduling conflicts.	21
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23	III. DEFINITIONS	Meeting - any regular or special meeting of the Board at which deliberations	23
24		and official actions take place.	24
25		Speaker Telephone - any telephone instrument or device capable of enabling	25
26		the absent Board member to hear the comments of and speak to all those	26
27		present at the meeting and enabling all those present at the meeting to hear the	27
28		comments of and speak to such absent member.	28
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30	IV. BOARD	A Board member exercising his or her right to participate in a Board meeting	30
31	MEMBER NOTICES	by means of teleconferencing shall give notice at least one (1) business day in	31
32		advance of the meeting in question. The notice must be given to the Board	32
33		President. If the Board President is not available, the notice must be given to	33
34		the Board Vice-President.	34

1		POLICY 131 (con't)	1
2		The Board member first giving notice of intention to participate	2
3		by teleconferencing shall be the Board member entitled to so participate	3
4		in the Public Board Meeting for which the notice of intent was given. If the	4
5		Board member first giving notice of intent to participate by teleconferencing	5
6		fails to so participate in the Board Meeting the Board member giving next in	6
7		time notice shall have the right to participate in the Public Meeting by	7
8		teleconferencing.	8
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10	V. REQUIREMENTS	A Board member shall be deemed to be present at the meeting and shall be	10
11		entitled to participate in the meeting only if: (a) such member is able to hear	11
12		everything that is said at the meeting by the public and other Board members;	12
13		and (b) the public and other Board members are able to hear everything that	13
14		is said by the Board member who is not physically present at the meeting.	14
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16		In the event it is determined by the President or Chair of the meeting that	16
17		either: (a) the Board member who is present by teleconferencing cannot be	17
18		heard by all persons who are physically present at the meeting, or (b) all	18
19		persons who are physically present at the meeting cannot be heard by the	19
20		Board member who is present by teleconferencing, then the teleconference will	20
21		be terminated, and only those persons who are physically present at the	21
22		meeting shall be permitted to participate. In the event of termination, the	22
23		Board member calling in shall still be considered present at the meeting	23
24		for purposes of his or her attendance.	24
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26	VI. PROCEDURE	At the Call to Order of the meeting, the presiding officer shall inform all	26
27		Board members and all others in attendance at the meeting of the identity of	27
28		the absent member, his/her physical location, and the reason for his/her	28
29		inability to be physically present at the meeting.	29
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31		The Secretary shall then proceed to establish the telephone connection with the	31
32		absent Board member. Upon the completion of such connection, the presiding	32
33		officer shall establish the identity of said Board member by appropriate	33
34		inquiry and shall ensure that the Board member participating by	34
35		teleconferencing and all those present have adequate communications.	35
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37		The presiding officer shall then commence the roll call. The Board member	37
38		participating by teleconferencing upon responding affirmatively to the call,	38
39		shall be considered present.	39
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41		At least five (5) members must be present in person to establish	41
42		a quorum before a Board member shall have the right to participate in the	42
43		public meeting by way of a two-way communication system.	43
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JR/sab
Approved: 4/2011

The Board member participating by teleconferencing may participate in all discussions, deliberations, actions and votes of the Board as if physically present at the meeting.

If for any reason the telephone connection with the Board member participating by teleconference is terminated before the adjournment of the meeting, the meeting shall continue.

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