ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS
FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS

Except as provided hereafter, the School Board shall not conduct any meeting wherein
the public business is discussed or transacted through telephonic, video, electronic, or other
electronic communication means where the members are not physically assembled. This policy
is applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership of the School
Board and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the
matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

For the purpose of this policy, “electronic communication,” means the use of technology
having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities to
transmit or receive information.

I. QUORUM PHYSICALLY ASSEMBLED

A. The School Board may conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed
or transacted through electronic communication means if 1) on or before the day of a
meeting, a member of the School Board notifies the chair that such member is unable
to attend the meeting due a temporary or permanent disability or other medical
condition that prevents the members physical attendance or that such member is
unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity
the nature of the personal matter; and 2) the School Board approves the member’s
participation by a majority vote of the members present at the primary or central
meeting location.

Participation by a School Board member by electronic communication means to due
to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings.

B. If participation by a School Board member through electronic communication means
is approved pursuant to subsection A above, the School Board records in its minutes
the remote location from which the member participated; however, the remote
location need not be open to the public. If participation is approved due to a
temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, the School Board also
includes in its minutes the fact that the member participated through electronic
communication means due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical
condition that prevented the member’s physical attendance. If participation is
approved due to a personal matter, the School Board also includes in its minutes the
specific nature of the personal matter cited by the member.

If a School Board member’s participation from a remote location due to a personal
matter is disapproved, such disapproval is recorded in the minutes with specificity.

C. A School Board member may participate in a meeting by electronic means pursuant
to subsections A and B above only when:

• A quorum of the School Board is physically assembled at one primary or
central meeting location; and
• the School Board makes arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

II. QUORUM NOT PHYSICALLY ASSEMBLED

The School Board may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided:

a) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location; and

b) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

If it holds a meeting pursuant to this section, the School Board:

• gives public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency contemporaneously with the notice provided members of the School Board; and
• makes arrangements for public access to the meeting.

For any meeting conducted pursuant to this subsection, the nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held are be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

Adopted: September 6, 2007
Amended: August 14, 2008; January 27, 2010; August 8, 2013; May 8, 2014;
August 14, 2014; August 24, 2017; August 23, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.23701, 2.2-3707, 2.2-3708.2, 2.2-3710.

Cross Ref.: BDA, Regular School Board Meetings
BDDG, Minutes