

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Manitoba Regulation 201/2004 states that “a school board may develop and implement a policy providing for the use of electronic means for the holding of meetings of a school board.”

Electronic meetings of the Board are recognized as being a legitimate means of the Board conducting its business. The provision of electronic means for participation in meetings of the Board is intended to allow for the participation of Board members in meetings where extenuating circumstances make it impossible for the Board member to physically attend. The Board recognizes the necessity of providing trustees with the ability to participate in all meetings arranged by the Board that require representative attendance and participation. Electronic meetings of the Board are intended to provide for more efficient use of time and productive resources in circumstances where time and/or availability of trustees and/or staff make it a better means of conducting a Board or Committee meeting.

THEREFORE,

1. At the request of a Board member, in situations where it is not possible for the member to attend a regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Board, the Board shall provide electronic means for participation in the meeting of the Board.
2. As required by Paragraph 5 of Manitoba Regulation 201/2004, the following persons must be physically present in the Board meeting room for any meeting of the Board or Committee of the Whole:
 - a. the Chair of the Board or his or her designate,
 - b. at least one additional member of the Board,
 - c. the Superintendent of the division or his or her designate,
 - d. the Secretary-Treasurer or his or her designate.
3. A Board member who participates in a meeting by electronic means is considered to be present at the meeting and will be recorded as being in attendance in the minutes.
4. Given that the member must be able to be heard and hear all other participants in the meeting, audio-teleconferencing will be the electronic means used.
5. If it is not possible for the required persons, as indicated in Article 5 of Manitoba Regulation 201/2004 indicated in 2 above, to be physically present at the meeting, the request for an electronic meeting shall be refused.
6. Electronic means will be provided in the Boardroom at the Board's corporate offices only to allow public participation where appropriate and to enable the public to hear all of the debate during public session.
7. All provisions in the legislation with regard to in-camera meetings and conflict of interest will apply for electronic meetings of the Board.

8. Electronic signatures can be used in place of original signatures including by way of facsimile or electronic transmission, each of which counterparts, whether by facsimile, electronic or otherwise, shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original.