

Committees/Meetings

Generally, trustees will function as a whole and will not form committees of the Board. Nevertheless the Board may create Board committees as deemed necessary or useful. All committees created by the Board to serve a clear public and governmental purpose shall comply with the open meeting laws and all other laws applicable to school board meetings.

Standing committees of the Board may be created and their purposes defined by a majority of the Board. The Board Chairman shall appoint trustees to serve on such committees. Trustees serving on committees shall be limited to fewer than one-half (½) of the Board.

In determining whether any meeting within the school system should be held in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, the following factors, although not exhaustive or dispositive in nature, should be considered:

- Frequency of the meetings being held;
- Whether the committee is deliberating or simply gathering facts;
- Whether the deliberations concern matter of policy rather than merely ministerial or administrative functions;
- Whether the committee members have executive authority and experience; and
- Results of the meeting.

Legal Reference: § 2-3-203, MCA Meetings of public agencies and certain associations of public agencies to be open to public – exceptions
Bryan v. Yellowstone (2002), 2002 MT 264
Crofts v. Associated Press (2004), 2004 MT 120

Policy History:

Adopted on: July 8, 2003

Revised on: November 9, 2004