

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

State law decrees that the public business, including the business of a school committee, be conducted before the public, with only those exceptions specified in the open meeting law. These are:

1. Any discussions of the job performance, character, physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that such person or persons affected may require that such discussion be held at an open meeting;
2. Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to the same;
3. Discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices;
4. Any investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct either civil or criminal;
5. Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of public-held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public;
6. Any discussions related to or concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the state of Rhode Island when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the interest of the public;
7. A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including but not limited to state lottery plans for new promotions.

In order for the School Committee to enter an executive session (closed to all except Committee members and those asked by the Committee to attend), there must be an affirmative vote of a majority of the members to close the meeting to the public for one of the reasons listed above. The specific permitted reason must be specified and the vote of each member recorded.

When the Committee plans to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing an individual for one of the permitted reasons, the individual must be so informed in advance. The committee must hold an open discussion if the individual requests it.

Final action on matters discussed in executive session will be taken in open meeting unless to do so would be detrimental to the individual (s) under discussion.

The proceedings (minutes) of an executive session may be kept confidential if public

disclosure would be inconsistent with the permitted closing of the session to the public.

Subcommittees of the School Committee are subject to all of the above provisions.

Adopted: January 6, 1992

Reviewed: August 1, 2022

LEGAL REFS.: 42-46-1 through 42-46-10

CROSS REF.: BD and sub codes (all relate to School Committee meetings)