

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**September 13, 2016**

### **SUBJECT:**

Consideration of Electronic Participation by Board Members at Board Meetings under certain circumstances.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On three prior occasions over about a five or six year period a Board of Education member has obtained advance permission from the other Board members to participate by a telephone hook-up when the member was going to be away but wanted to be part of the debate or discussion. Board policy presently does not specifically address this issue. At least one existing policy appears by implication to require physical presence in order to be able to vote, and another implies physical presence to establish a quorum. The Board at its last meeting gave direction or request for the administration to review this issue and come back with some suggestions.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

The administration considers this issue to be discretionary with the Board of Education, and legal counsel for the District concurs in this opinion. Accordingly the administration is providing options and what the various policy provisions might look like under certain approaches, but also is providing the Board with discussion points about this issue. This approach is informational in nature and neutral with regard to any overview type recommendations. It is our expectation that the Board will review these materials and related information, consider and discuss its various options, and decide in which direction it desires to proceed.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and discuss the attached initial alternative suggestions along with the listed additional considerations and provide an outline of desired policy content for the administration to utilize in bringing back follow-up recommendation(s) for policy change.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

- 1) Proposed changes to Policy BEDF and Policy BEDC which are recommended, regardless of the electronic participation decisions.
- 2) Alternative "A," Alternative "B," and Alternative "C" as possibilities for utilization by the Board to address the primary issue, which include Draft changes to Policy BEDF for limited "remote" participation in Board Meetings, and a Draft new policy BEDM which would allow more expansive voting-type participation in Board meetings.

- 3) List of Consideration and Discussion Points which would need to be interwoven into certain participation schemes.

**PREPARED BY:**

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