

Albion Middle School SCC

Rules of Order and Procedure

To promote ethical behavior and civil discourse each council member shall:

- Attend council meetings on time and prepared
- Make decisions with the needs of students as the main objective
- Listen to and value diverse opinions
- Be sure the opinions of those you represent are included in discussions
- Expect accountability and be prepared to be accountable
- Act with integrity

Rules of Procedure:

All meetings are open to the public and the public is welcome to attend.

The agenda of each upcoming meeting with draft minutes of the prior meeting will be made available to all council members at least one week in advance, will be posted on the school website and made available in the main office. The agenda will include the date, time and location of the meeting.

Minutes will be kept of all meetings, prepared in draft format for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

The council will prepare a timeline for the school year that includes due dates for all required reporting and other activities/tasks that the council agrees to assume or participate in. The timeline will assist in preparation of agendas to be sure the council accomplishes their work in a timely manner.

The council consists of the principal, at least 1 school employee who is elected in even years, at least 1 school employee who is elected in odd years, and at least 4 parent members, half of whom are elected in even years and half in odd years.

The chair conducts the meetings, makes assignments and requests reports on assignments. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall conduct meetings.

The council must have a quorum to vote. A quorum is equal to a majority of council members.

If a parent member is absent without excuse from two consecutive meetings, the chair will notify the member that if the member does not attend the next meeting, the council will consider the seat vacant. The remaining parent members will appoint a parent to fill the unexpired term or if the parent, administrative ratios are consistent with council requirements, the seat may remain vacant until the following school year.

Items on the agenda take priority over other discussions coming before the council. Council action will be taken by motions and voting, with votes and motions recorded in the minutes.

If a conflict of interest should arise concerning an issue before the council and a council member, the member is required to disclose said conflict to the chair and abstain from vote.

Meetings shall be conducted and action taken according to very simplified rules of parliamentary procedure as required in 53A-1a-108.1(10).

A motion (or an action to be taken by the council) is stated as a motion. Someone else on the council “seconds” the motion indicating that at least one other person on the council feels the motion is worthy of discussion. Then the council members may provide input and discussion as called upon by the chair. When discussion seems complete the chair may call for a vote on the motion. Or when a member of the council “calls the previous question” (a motion to end discussion of the first motion), a second is required and then, without discussion the chair calls for a vote that must pass by 2/3. If the vote on the previous question fails the council goes back to discussing the first motion. If the motion to call the previous question passes, the chair directly calls for a vote on the first motion. A vote to call the previous question is usually used to move business along.

SIMPLE MOTIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

MOTION	DOES IT REQUIRE A 2ND?	IS IT DEBATABLE ?	CAN IT BE AMENDED ?	IS A VOTE REQUIRED
Adjourn	yes	no	no	majority
Amend a motion	yes	yes	yes	majority
Close nominations	yes	no	yes	2/3
Main motion	yes	yes	yes	majority
Point of Order	no	no	no	ruled on by chair
Previous Question	yes	no	no	2/3
Reconsider	yes	yes	no	majority
Withdrawal of Motion	no	no	no	majority

- A tie vote is a lost vote.
- A main motion may be amended or substituted.
- Nominations can be closed by saying, “I move to close nominations.”
- Most motions are main motions.
- A point of order is offered when there is some question if procedure had been followed correctly.
- To stop debate or discussion on a motion and force the vote a member would say, “I move the previous question.” This requires a second and a 2/3 vote.
- Hasty action may be corrected by use of the motion to reconsider. This motion may be made only by one who voted on the prevailing side.
- A person who made the motion may withdraw the same motion.