

Motions

The Way Advisory Communicates

The Process

A motion is a sentence or two that asks for specific information or requests a certain action.

- Motions start at one of our schools. At a School Advisory Forum meeting a topic may generate much discussion and a motion may come out of that discussion. This also may happen at an Area meeting or District Advisory Council meeting.
- If SAF votes in favor of the motion and it requires additional action, it passes to the area for consideration.

Process Continued

- The School Advisory Forum Chairperson from that school brings the motion forward to the Area General Meeting.
- If the Area Advisory Council membership approves the motion and additional action is required,
- The Area Chairperson brings the motion to the District Advisory Council.

Process Continued

- The Area Chairperson presents the motion to the District Advisory Council membership for consideration.
- If the motion passes at DAC, the District Advisory Council Chairperson forwards the motion to the Superintendent.
- The District Advisory Chair presents all motions, whether passed or failed to the School Board in the DAC Chair's report to the Board.

The Mechanics of Motions

- You have a great idea or want more information on a topic. In your School Advisory Forum you may make a motion to: recommend, act, or call for information.
- You say I move, and state your motion.
- All motions made must be seconded and are adopted by majority vote.
- All main motions may be debated.
- Its always a good idea to write your motion down for the benefit of the group.

Example of a motion

- I move, the School Board of Broward County reinstitute its formal looping process for policy changes that directly impact students, parental input in a student's education or changes in scheduling or school calendar.
- A second is required for the purposes of moving the motion to the "floor" for discussion.
- Discussion then takes place. The chair will ask the maker of the motion to explain the reasoning behind the motion.
- The Chair generally allows for an orderly expression of opinion. This process could take any number of forms. Going around the room twice to hear comments. Taking comments for and against the motion, alternating.
- Generally, the Chair will only allow an individual to speak twice on the motion. This allows for all to be heard and prevents one or several people from dominating the discussion.

Amending a Motion

- After a motion has been presented to the body, the motion now longer belongs to the maker of the motion. It no longer belongs to the organization.
- During discussion, a member may attempt to amend or change the main motion.
- If an amendment or change to the motion is called for and it is seconded, the chair will read the amended motion and discussion moves to the change in the motion only.

Amending a motion

Original Motion

- I move, the School Board of Broward County reinstitute its formal looping process for policy changes that directly impact students, parental input in a student's education or changes in scheduling or school calendar.

Amended Motion

- ~~I~~We move, the School Board of Broward County reinstitutes its formal looping process for policy changes that directly impact students, parental input in a students education or changes in scheduling or school calendar. These policies include but are not limited to Attendance, Code of Conduct, Discipline, Boundaries, Automatic Electronic Course Scheduling, and changes in school day and school calendar.

Amending a Motion

- Once the amended motion is seconded the discussion moves to the amended part of the motion only.
- The Chair will manage the discussion and may call for the vote if the discussion become redundant.
- The Chair re-reads the amended motion and calls for a vote. If the members like the amended motion that becomes the new main motion, if it is voted down, then group goes back to the original motion.
- If the amend motion passes, then chair may or may not allow for further discussion. Another vote is taken to formally pass the amended motion.
- If the amendment fails, the chair then goes back to the original motion and discussion. If there are no further attempts to amend the original motion, the chair may call for a vote.
- A member may also call for a vote by “calling the previous question”. This stops debate, this is not a item for discussion and it take a 2/3's vote to end discussion.
- If the group decides to end debate, the chair restates the motion and conducts the vote.

Other things that can happen to a Motion

- Besides amending a motion the following things may happen:
- Table a motion indefinitely (this effectively kills a motion)
- Table a motion: time certain. This means a motion will be tabled for a stated reason and for a definite period of time such as the next meeting.
- Refer: this means the group wants to refer their motion to another group for their feedback. The motion then comes back to the main group at time fixed by the group to reconsider. Referring a motion often happens in effort to get more information.

Other kinds of Motions

- Adopt agenda
- Adjourn a meeting
- Point of Order: Asking a procedural question
- Point of Information: Ask a relevant question

Success or Not

- If your motion succeeds, congratulations! It moves forward to the next level.
- If your motion fails. Don't take it personally.
- Try again, sometimes motions passing and failing are all about timing.

Motions History

Motions that went to DAC and then acted on by the Superintendent or the Board

- Blood Bank Motion
- Establishment of a formal looping process
- Recess: by Superintendent memo

Motions that failed at DAC but were acted on by a Board member

- Exam exemption waivers
- Photo I.D. badges at the secondary level (in the works)
- Homework policy change