

---

**Board Meetings Policy 1.400**

---

**The Background:**

This item presents revisions to the Board Meetings Policy to make updates and revisions. This revision clarifies who presides over the Board under specific circumstances, changes “staff recommendation” to “Executive Director’s recommendation” for items considered by the Board, while not preventing any member from consulting Board staff regarding the policy, legal, and/or other considerations and implications of the item. It specifies that the Tennessee Department of Education, Board members, or SBE staff may propose items to the executive director for inclusion on the meeting agendas. It further specifies that the Board, through the Executive Director, may request that other state agencies develop or present items when the other state agency is considered to have unique subject matter expertise.

Additionally, language was added making clear that an amendment to an item being considered may be made by a majority of members present and voting, while the majority of members entitled to vote is required for the passage of a rule or policy on first or final reading, the adoption of a resolution, or any other substantive action of the Board.

It further removes references to Statements of Necessity for electronic meetings, as the underlying statutory requirement has been repealed.

**Policy Justification:**

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed for adoption as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule, and/or concerns only the internal management of state government and does not affect private rights or privileges.

**Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring that the Board’s rules and policies are adopted and acted upon according to a policy that is both up to date and clear.

**The Recommendation:**

SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.