



Rules of the Game: Parliamentary Rules & Procedures

Nevada Association of School Boards
Saturday, November 17, 2018

with
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Business in Order

- Introduction to Parliamentary Law
- Skit #1
- Bylaws and such
- Skit #2
- Making Motions
- One Thing at a Time
- Voting
- Levels of Formality
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Introduction to Parliamentary Law

- The Guiding Star
 - Respect for the Individual
- The Four Pillars of Parliamentary Procedure.
 - Majority Rule.
 - Minority Rights.
 - Protecting Absentees.
 - Fairness, Stability, and Efficiency.
- Hierarchy of Authority
 - Constitution (US & state), Laws (state), Ordinances (local)
 - Bylaws, Standing Rules
 - Adopted Authority (Roberts)
 - Custom or Tradition
 - General Parliamentary Law

What is Parliamentary Law?

Parliamentary law “is the best method yet devised to enable assemblies of any size, with due regard for every member’s opinion, to arrive at the general will on the maximum number of questions of varying complexity in a minimum amount of time and under all kinds of internal climate ranging from total harmony to hardened or impassioned division of opinion.” (RONR (10th ed.), p. xlviii.)

Skit #1

- General Consent
- Objection
- Ruling by the Chair
- Appeal
- Immediately Pending Question

Bylaws and Such

- Who we are.
 - Membership.
- What we do.
 - Mission & Purpose.
- How we do it.
 - Agendas, Motions, Committees, etc.
- How we keep track of what we did.
 - Minutes.
- How to undo something we already did.

Skit #2

- Main Motion
- First and Second Degree Amendments
- Friendly Amendment
- Ruling by the Chair
- Appeal
- Call the Question

Making Motions

- Most Main Motions are generated in Committee.
 - Committee Reports should conclude with proposed Action Item (Main Motion).
 - The Council meets to discuss Action Items but it isn't a brainstorming session, that's what Committees do.
 - Don't be too reluctant to send something back to the Committee. Make the Committees work.
- Making a Subsidiary, Privileged, and Incidental Motions
 - Timing is Everything
 - Amend, Postpone, Stop Debate, etc.
 - Seconding and all that Jazz.
 - When seconding is and isn't required. And why.

[One Thing at a Time]

- Rules of Debate and Decision-making
 - What's on the Floor?
 - Who has the Floor?
- Amendments
 - First and Second Degree
 - “Friendly” ?
- In and Out of Order
 - Timing is Everything

Voting

- The Board's job is to Vote.
- The Board decides by counting noses.
 - Show of hands
 - Roll Call
- General Consent

Level of Formality

- Consider the Setting
- Seating is important.
- What to wear.
- Getting the Floor
 - Raise your hand.
 - The Chair should acknowledge requests and assign a turn in order.
 - Use of a Speakers List.
- Impartiality Required of the Chair
 - Can the Chair make motions?
 - Member does not lose their rights upon becoming an Officer. RONR (10th ed.) pg. 432, ln. 11.

Skit #3

- General Consent
- Amend by Filling a Blank
 - Perfect for Adopting a Budget

Questions & Answers



Adjournment

- For further information:

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