

**RESOLUTION AMENDING BOARD POLICIES TO PERMIT
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education of the Norton City School District, Summit County, Ohio, met in _____ session on the ____ day of _____, 2020, with the following members present:

The Treasurer advised the Board that the notice requirement of R.C. 121.22 and Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto were complied with for the meeting.

_____ moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 197 (“HB 197”), Section 12, as originally signed into law by Governor DeWine on March 27, 2020, permitted members of a public body to hold, attend, and participate in meetings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology (“virtual meetings”) until December 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020, Governor DeWine signed into law Ohio House Bill 404 (“HB 404”), which amends Section 12 of HB 197 to extend the period in which members of a public body may hold, attend, and participate in virtual meetings until July 1, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly declared HB 404 to be an emergency measure necessary to continue essential operation of local government and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, giving it immediate effect; and,

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend relevant Board policies to permit virtual meetings until such authority expires under Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto; and,

WHEREAS, the Board desires to deem such amendment an emergency under Policy BF, allowing the relevant policies to be amended immediately.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Norton City School District, Summit County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. Pursuant to and in accordance with Board Policy BF, “Board Policy Development and Adoption,” the Board of Education finds that an emergency condition exists to permit the immediate amendment of Board Policy BDDF, and hereby amends, from the date of this meeting through the expiration of the authority granted under Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto, Board Policy BDDF, “Voting Method,” as follows:

The second-to-last paragraph is amended to state as follows: “For passage, most other actions require an affirmative vote by a majority of those present **either physically or electronically (i.e. by teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology)** and voting. Board members must be physically present **or electronically present (i.e. by teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology)** at the meeting in order to vote.”

The intent of this action is to permit members of the Board to vote during public meetings held as virtual meetings in which such Board members are participants, consistent with Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto.

Section 2. Pursuant to and in accordance with Board Policy BF, “Board Policy Development and Adoption,” the Board of Education hereby finds that an emergency condition exists to permit the immediate amendment of Board Policies BDDH and KD, and hereby amends, from the date of this meeting through the expiration of the authority granted under Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto, Board Policies BDDH and KD, “Public Participation at Board Meetings,” to add the following sentence at the end of each such Policy:

“In the event the Board’s meeting is conducted electronically consistent with Section 12 of House Bill 197 and any amendments thereto, the Board will announce at the start of each meeting whether or not public participation will be permitted for the meeting based upon whether such participation is practical given the electronic nature of the meeting.”

The intent of this action is to recognize that virtual meetings may not provide a practical means by which public participation may occur.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in these formal actions were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. 121.22 and Section 12 of HB 197 and any amendments thereto.

_____ seconded the Motion, and upon roll call, the vote resulted as follows:

Motion passed and adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Board President

ATTEST:

Treasurer