

## REMOTE PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

As permitted by adoption by the Town of Nantucket Board of Selection on July 11, 2012, the School Committee of the Nantucket Public Schools shall allow remote participation at its meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law for those individuals who are not able to attend for the following permissible reasons:

- a) personal illness;
- b) personal disability;
- c) emergency;
- d) military service; or,
- e) geographic distance

The following procedures shall be followed:

- 1) Any member who wishes to participate remotely shall, as soon as reasonably possible prior to a meeting, notify the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person chairing the meeting, of his or her desire to do so and the reason for and facts supporting his/her request.
- 2) At the start of the meeting, the chair shall announce the name of any member who will be participating remotely and the reason under 940 CMR 29.10 for his/her remote participation. This information shall also be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- 3) A member participating remotely for an executive session shall state at the start of the session that no other person is present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location, unless presence of that person is approved by a simple majority of the public body.
- 4) All votes taken during any meeting in which a member participates remotely shall be by roll call vote.
- 5) A quorum of the public body, including the individual chairing the meeting shall be physically present at the meeting location. Members who participate remotely shall not be deemed to be absent.
- 6) The acceptable means of remote participation is: conference telephone, internet, or satellite-enabled audio or video conferencing; or, any other technology that is available that enables the remote participant and all persons present to be clearly audible to one another. The chair or in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting shall make this determination.
- 7) If video technology is used, the remote participant shall be clearly visible to all persons present at the meeting location.
- 8) Individual committee members may participate remotely up to three (3) times per fiscal year in executive session meetings

The Board of Selectmen may revoke Remote Participation at any time under 940 CMR 29.10(3).

Violations of the Open Meeting Law are reportable through the Open Meeting Law division of the Attorney General's office. If the Attorney General determines, after an investigation, that 940 CMR 29.10 has been violated, the Attorney General may resolve the investigation by ordering the School Committee to temporarily or permanently discontinue its use of remote participation.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30A, s. 20(d); 940 CMR 29.00

CROSS REFS.: BE, School Committee Meetings  
BEC, Executive Sessions