

### South Macoupin Association for Special Education Public Posting Regarding Board Meetings

In light of Governor Pritzker's declaration of a public health disaster, the SMASE will be temporarily changing the format of its Board of Education meetings, effective immediately. Public Act 101-0640 amended the Open Meetings Act which allows board members to participate remotely in the event of a public health disaster. These format changes are consistent with Public Act 101-0640 and CDC guidance. They are intended to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

The Open Meetings Act requires that a majority of a quorum be **physically present** at all meetings. However, Public Act 101-0640 suspended this OMA requirement. Now, all Board members are permitted to participate in a Board meeting remotely - there is no minimum number of Board members who must physically be present at the meeting site. Public Act 101-0640 further suspended the conditions the OMA places on when a Board member may participate in a meeting remotely. Consequently, while the public health disaster is in effect, all Board members are permitted to participate in a Board meeting remotely, without question.

Therefore, consistent with these new rules, the District will be permitting any Board member who wishes to participate in the Board of Education meetings remotely to do so.

Further, in accordance with the latest Executive Order's prohibition on public gatherings of ten (10) or more people, **we are encouraging the public not to attend the Board meetings in-person**. Instead, all Board meetings will be recorded and posted at [www.smaschools.org](http://www.smaschools.org) for the public to listen to within 24 hours of the meeting's conclusion.

This request is consistent with the directive limiting public gatherings to ten (10) people or less.

With regard to public comments, the Board will now be accepting public comments via either email or written submission. Each comment will be read out loud at the public meeting during the normal "public comment" portion of the meeting. Public comments can be submitted via email at [astorm@smaseschools.org](mailto:astorm@smaseschools.org). We will continue to accept public comments in this medium until the public comment portion of the meeting closes.

Please know, SMASE will remain dedicated to keeping the public fully apprised of all public business which takes place. Our website and social media platforms will continue to be updated with any new business or school news which comes about.

These changes will be in effect until the public health disaster proclamation is lifted.

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued support of the SMASE, especially during this trying time. Our entire community has been impacted by this virus, and the SMASE thanks you for your understanding as we try to work together as a community to combat the spread of COVID-19.