RULES OF ORDER & PROCEDURE

Virtual Horizons Charter School

Code & Rule References

The Rules of Order & Procedure adhere to all relevant legal requirements for Charter Trust Land Council and the School LAND Trust Program, as outlined in Utah Code §§ 53G-7-1203, 53G-7-1205, and 53G-7-1206, as well as Utah Administrative Rule R277-477.

Council Duties

In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-7-1202, the responsibilities of the council include:

- Creating (all components of) the School LAND Trust Plan
- In accordance with state board rule regarding charter trust land council expenditures and funding limits: working with students, families, and educators to develop and incorporate safety principles at the school; and holding at least an annual discussion with the charter school administrators regarding safety principles
- Providing input to the school's principal on a positive behaviors plan
- Providing input to the school's principal on digital citizenship

Council Member Expectations

To promote ethical behavior and respectful discussion, each council member shall:

- Attend council meetings on time and come prepared
- Make decisions with the best interests of students as the primary focus
- Listen to and value diverse opinions
- Ensure that the perspectives of those the council represents are considered in discussions
- Be accountable for their actions and expect accountability from others
- Act with integrity

Rules of Procedure:

1. **Training**: Council members will receive annual training to understand their responsibilities. Training is the responsibility of the local charter board.

2. **Open Meetings**: All meetings are open to the public, and the public is welcome to attend.

3. **Meeting Agendas and Minutes**:
    - The agenda for each upcoming meeting, along with draft minutes from the previous meeting, will be provided to all council members at least one week in advance.

- The agenda will be posted on the school website and will include the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as any proposed action items.

4. **Meeting Minutes**: Written minutes will be taken at all meetings. These minutes will be prepared in draft form for approval at the next scheduled meeting. Once approved, minutes will be retained for three years.
5. **Annual Timeline**: The council will create a timeline for the school year. This timeline will include due dates for all required reports and other activities or tasks that the council agrees to undertake or participate in. The timeline will be used to help prepare meeting agendas and ensure the council completes its work efficiently.
6. **Officer Responsibilities**: The chair will conduct meetings, make assignments to council members, and request reports on those assignments. In the chair's absence, the vice-chair will conduct the meetings. The chair may delegate responsibilities to other council members as needed.
7. **Quorum**: A quorum, which is a majority of the council members, is necessary to conduct official business and vote. This quorum requirement does not necessitate a two-parent majority.
8. **Parliamentary Procedure**: Meetings will be conducted and actions taken according to simplified rules of parliamentary procedure as required by Utah Code § 53G-7-1203. Council actions will be decided by motions and voting, with all votes and motions recorded in the meeting minutes.

Simplified Motions of Parliamentary Procedure:

Motion	Does it require a 2nd?	Is it debatable?	Can it be amended?	Is a vote required?
Adjourn	yes	no	no	majority
Amend a motion	yes	yes	yes	majority
Close nominations	yes	no	yes	2/3
Main motion	yes	yes	yes	majority
Point of Order	no	no	no	ruled on by chair

Previous Question	yes	no	no	2/3
Reconsider	yes	yes	no	majority
Withdrawal of motion	no	no	no	majority

Understanding the Motions:

- **Motion:** A formal proposal for the council to take a specific action. A motion must be stated clearly.
- **Second:** Another council member must indicate their support for the motion to allow it to be discussed and voted upon.
- **Discussion:** Once a motion is seconded, council members can offer their input and opinions when recognized by the chair.
- **Voting:** After discussion, the chair will call for a vote on the motion. The outcome depends on the type of motion and the required majority.
- **Calling the Previous Question:** A member can make a motion to end the discussion on the current motion by saying, "I move the previous question." This requires a second and a two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass. If it passes, the council immediately votes on the original motion without further discussion. If it fails, the council continues discussing the original motion. This motion is typically used to expedite the meeting.
- **Tie Vote:** A vote that results in an equal number of votes for and against the motion is considered a lost vote.
- **Main Motion:** This is the primary type of motion used to introduce new business or ideas. Main motions can be debated and amended.
- **Amend a Motion:** A motion to change the wording or details of the main motion. Amendments require a second, are debatable, and require a majority vote.
- **Point of Order:** A member raises a "point of order" if they believe a procedural error has occurred during the meeting. The chair will rule on whether the point is valid.
- **Reconsider:** A motion to bring back a previously decided motion for further discussion and another vote. This motion can only be made by a member who voted on the winning side of the original motion and requires a second and a majority vote.
- **Withdrawal of Motion:** The person who originally made a motion can ask to withdraw it before a vote is taken. This does not require a second or debate and is usually granted by the chair.

- **Close Nominations:** A motion to end the process of nominating candidates for an office. It requires a second and a two-thirds (2/3) vote.