

Upcoming Legal Holidays and Election Day May Affect School District Business (October 9, 2013)

Minnesota law provides that no public business may be conducted on legal holidays and during certain times on the day in which an election is held within a school district. Conducting school and holding school board meetings are both considered transacting "public business." However, certain exceptions are included in the law. School districts need to be aware of meeting restrictions on the following dates:

Christopher Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus Day ("Columbus Day") is designated as the second Monday in October. School districts have two options with respect to Columbus Day. If a school board affirms that Columbus Day is a holiday or takes no specific action to the contrary, Columbus Day is deemed to be a holiday and, as a result, school cannot be held and no public business may be transacted. Alternatively, if a school board adopts a resolution designating that Columbus Day is not a holiday and includes a clause to that effect in the teachers' collective bargaining agreement, school may be conducted and public business may be transacted in a school board meeting on the second Monday in October.

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is held on November 11. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the holiday is observed the preceding day (Friday). If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed the following day (Monday). School districts do not have an option to determine whether Veterans Day is a holiday with respect to the transaction of school business. Therefore, school board meetings cannot be held on November 11. However, school may be conducted on Veterans Day if a clause is inserted in the teachers' contract that school will be conducted. In the event that school is held on Veterans Day, at least one hour of the school program must be devoted to a patriotic observance of the day.

Election Day

On any day in which an election is held within the boundaries of the school district, no meeting of the school board may be conducted between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. In addition, no school-sponsored event may be held between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day that a regularly scheduled election is held in any political subdivision in which the school is located.

Please contact us if you have questions as to how these restrictions affect your school district.

~ [*Peter Martin*](#)