

**FILLING BOARD VACANCIES  
(PROCEDURE)**

The board may fill a vacancy on the board by appointment or by special election. The Attorney General has ruled that a school board may interview candidates for appointment in executive session (AG Op. No. 92-23). The following suggested agenda language does not represent approval or disapproval of any action that may be taken by the board of education:

Proposed executive session to interview candidates and to discuss appointment of an individual to vacant board seat # \_\_\_\_\_. 25 O.S. §307(B)(1) and 70 O.S. § 5-118.

Vote to convene or not to convene in executive session.

Vote to return to open session.

Executive session minutes compliance announcement.

Vote to appoint or not to appoint an individual to vacant board seat #\_\_\_\_\_.

If the filing period has closed for an open position on the school board and no candidate has filed resulting in a vacancy, the board may appoint to fill the vacancy. In this very limited circumstance, the board may determine that the person appointed does not have to reside in the board election ward. The person appointed would have to fulfill all other requirements as set forth in law for school board candidates. Any person appointed who does not reside in the board election ward may only serve the appointed term of office and would not be eligible to refile for that board seat.

If the board cannot reach a decision with regard to appointing an individual to fill the position within 60 days, the board is required to call a special election. (See BBB-EI for a sample resolution calling for a special election.) The resolution calling for a special election must be delivered to the secretary of the county election board no fewer than 60 days preceding the election. However, the board is not required to wait until the next date the county is holding an election. It is at the discretion of the board as to when the election will be held, as long as the resolution is provided to the secretary of the county election board no fewer than 60 days prior to the date requested for the election. Individuals elected to fill a vacancy serve for the remainder of the unexpired term

If an individual is appointed to the seat, the appointee shall serve until the next regular election if the person is appointed to fill such vacancy in the first half of the term of office for the board position. If the person is appointed to fill such vacancy after the first half of the term of office for the board position, then the appointee shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

**REFERENCE: 26 O.S. §13A-110**