

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board.

The following rules shall govern such public participation and shall be administered by the presiding officer, whose decision may be overruled by a majority of those members present and voting:

1. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business in the Bylaws of this Board or by majority consent of the Board upon a motion to suspend the rules of order.
2. Persons wishing to address the Board shall advise the Board President or the Superintendent of Schools prior to the scheduled starting time of the meeting. The request shall be made in writing on a form provided by the district and shall include the name of the speaker, the address, telephone number, name of organization represented (if any), and a brief description of the topic to be addressed. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson.
3. No person may be heard who is not a resident,* a Board of Education appointed committee member speaking about committee work, or an employee of the district. No employee of the district may address the Board at a public meeting on a subject which may be otherwise remedied by resort to Board policy and procedures or a grievance procedure, nor may an employee address the Board in contravention of Board policy on the free speech protections of employees.
4. The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.
5. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
6. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes duration.

7. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
8. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
9. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.
10. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, or is materially disruptive to orderly conduct of the meeting.

Adoption date: July 9, 2007