

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education desires citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation of the schools and so that the Board may have an opportunity to hear the comments, suggestions and concerns of the public. In an effort to inform citizens in advance of matters to be considered at the Board meetings, advance notice of all regular and special meetings will be provided to the community media. Agenda items that are anticipated at the time of the press release for each meeting may be briefly outlined.

Although the public has the right to attend Board meetings, it has no inherent right to participate in the deliberations of the Board without its consent. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board has the right to request that complaints about school personnel or against any person connected with the school system be directed to the appropriate administrator. Other channels provide for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individual employees of the District.

The President of the Board will recognize persons requesting to be heard. It will be discussed under public commentary.

It is suggested, although not required, that persons or delegates desiring to be heard before the Board regarding topics not on the prepared agenda, notify the Superintendent and/or Board President of the topic no later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Any group appearing before the Board shall select a spokesperson to address the Board. Other members of the group shall not address the Board except with the permission of the presiding officer;
- B. A speaker must be recognized by the presiding officer and shall present his/her name, address, group affiliation, if any, and topic to be discussed in the open forum book provided;
- C. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes. At the discretion of the presiding officer, more or less time, per person, may be allocated;

- D. All presentations must be done in an orderly fashion and must not impede the meeting, before, during, or after the presentation;
- E. Generally speaking, individuals will be recognized to speak once on a given topic;
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members or administrators, individually;
- G. Board members may ask the speaker questions or make comments in order to clarify the discussion.
- H. Audio or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and must agree to abide by the following conditions:
 - 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience;
 - 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session;
 - 3. No commentary, adjustments of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session and not disrupt the meeting.
- I. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. Prohibit public comments that are frivolous, repetitive and/or harassing;
 - 2. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, off-topic, antagonistic, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 3. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - 4. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - 5. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.