

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board 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 relating to agenda items. In an effort to inform citizens in advance of matters to be considered at the Board of Education 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 or enter into 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 will not hear complaints about school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. 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. If the topic to be discussed is not on the Board agenda, it will be discussed under public commentary. If the topic is on the agenda, members of the audience desiring to speak must request time. Members of the audience granted time to speak may do so following the introduction of the topic by the President of the Board and then recognition to address the Board.

It is required that persons or delegates desiring to be heard before the Board of Education 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 to allow time for preparation and the attainment of any necessary documentation.

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. Public participation will be permitted at each meeting, each a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.
- B. Any person wishing to be heard by the Board shall contact the Treasurer and abide by the rules outlined herein;

- C. Board meeting attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- D. 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;
- E. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments with an announcement of their name and address.
- F. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes. If several people wish to speak, each person will be allotted three minutes until the total time of thirty (30) minutes is used. At the discretion of the presiding officer, more or less time, per person, may be allocated;
- G. All presentations must be done in an orderly fashion and must not impede the meeting before, during, or after the presentation;
- H. Generally speaking, individuals will be recognized to speak once on a given topic;
- I. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members or administrators, individually;
- J. Board members may ask the speaker questions or make comments in order to clarify the discussion;
- K. Public statements on presentation topics will not be taken.
- L. Photographic, electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special Board meetings legally open to the public according to the following guidelines:
 - 1. Photographs, broadcasting and recordings of meetings may be made only when all parties involved have been informed that cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices are being used. Persons using these devices must notify the Board of their intent to do so and remain in an area designated by the Board for media purposes.
 - 2. Persons operating cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and

no commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made while the Board is in session.

3. The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting.

The Board may make the necessary arrangements to have audio recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

- M. The presiding officer has the right and power to control the meeting and may take whatever actions are necessary to ensure an orderly meeting. These actions include:

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;
6. Waive these rules.

Persons not abiding by the rules outlined above will be asked to leave the meeting.