

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors desires citizens of the community to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation of the School and so that the Board of Directors may have an opportunity to hear the comments, suggestions and concerns of the public

Although the public has the right to attend Board of Directors meetings, it has no inherent right to participate in the deliberations of the Board of Directors without its consent. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board of Directors will not hear complaints about school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide for Board of Directors consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individual staff members of the School.

The President of the Board of Directors will recognize persons requesting to be heard. If the topic to be discussed is not on the Board of Directors 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 of Directors and then recognition to address the Board of Directors.

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

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

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. A maximum of thirty minutes of public participation will be permitted at each meeting.
- B. Any person wishing to be heard by the Board of Directors should first discuss the matter with the appropriate person on the Executive Director's administrative staff and with the Executive Director;
- C. 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;

- D. 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 on a card provided, and said card shall be presented to the Fiscal Officer before the start of the meeting;
- E. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to no more than five (5) 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;
- F. All presentations must be done in an orderly fashion and must not impede the meeting, before, during, or after the presentation;
- G. Generally speaking, individuals will be recognized to speak once on a given topic;
- H. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members or administrators, individually;
- I. Board of Directors members may ask the speaker questions or make comments in order to clarify the discussion;
- J. Public statements on work session topics will not be taken;
- K. The presiding officer has the right and power to control the meeting and may take whatever actions are necessary to ensure an orderly meeting.