

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. 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 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 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 suggested, although not 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.

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 shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the bylaws of this Board at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting after being recognized by the presiding officer.

- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and school(s) where their children attend, if applicable.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration, unless extended by the President of the Board. Any questions must be addressed to the presiding officer.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. Tape or video recordings are permitted, providing the person operating the recorder has received written approval from the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting and agrees to the placement of the equipment and 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, adjustment 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.
- G. The presiding officer has the right and power to control the meeting and may take whatever actions are necessary to ensure an orderly meeting.