

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

All regular and special meetings of the Board of Education will be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district, it shall offer suitable time at all meetings for citizens to be heard.

A reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 minutes (which may be modified by a majority vote of the Board then present, to be in effect only during the same meeting at which such vote is taken), shall be set aside at the beginning of each regular and special Board meeting to hear comments and questions from the public pertaining to items on the agenda. Comments shall be held to three minutes for individual speakers.

The Board may, from time to time by a majority vote of the members present, authorize the President to permit further public comments during any meeting. Any such vote shall, at a minimum, specify the place on the agenda for such public comment period and shall specify a total duration for the comment period.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers and for maintaining proper order and obtaining adherence to any time limits set. Persons wishing to speak should first be recognized by the President, then identify themselves, any organization they may be representing at the meeting and the agenda topic or other matter of public concern they wish to discuss.

Speakers may offer such objective criticism of school operations and programs with which they are concerned. However, the Board will not hear, in public session, personal complaints of school personnel, nor complaints against any person connected with the school system. Such complaints are to be addressed first through proper administrative channels. Only in those cases where satisfactory adjustment cannot be made by the Superintendent's office should complaints be submitted, in writing, to the Board.

The presentation should be as brief as possible and relate to school matters. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, defamatory statements, threatening behavior or statements, advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice, or any disruptive actions will not be tolerated. Any individual who violates this policy will be asked only once by the President or presiding member to discontinue and refrain from such behavior. If an individual violates this policy after a prior request to discontinue and refrain from violative behavior during the course of the same meeting, the President or presiding officer shall direct the individual to leave the premises immediately. If the individual fails to comply, the President or presiding officer shall contact law enforcement for assistance. The President or presiding officer may suspend the meeting while waiting for law enforcement to respond. Any individual who violates this policy at more than one meeting in any 12-month period may have his or her attendance and participation limited as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Questions asked by the public shall, when possible, be answered immediately by the Board President or referred to the Board or staff members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Board or administrative staff for consideration and later response.

Concerns of the public not addressed herein should be submitted to the Superintendent in writing so that they may be properly handled.

Cross-ref: 1400, Public Complaints

Approved: July 1, 2001

Revised and Approved: January 8, 2007; October 24, 2013