

0167.3 Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Board is committed to communicating with members of the public outside of public meetings. In addition, to permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board may provide a period for public participation at its regular meetings. Public participation shall not include business or academic concerns particular to an individual or concerning a particular school. If the concern has been shared through the normal chain of command and/or appropriate appeal procedures have been exhausted through prior discussions with the appropriate supervisor and the Superintendent or his/her designee in an attempt to resolve the problem, such items may be submitted in writing to the Board and shall be signed by the person or persons making the charge or complaint.

At each meeting where public participation is permitted the presiding officer shall review the procedures to be followed by the Board and constituents.

The Board expects all persons attending its meetings to treat each other with civility, courtesy, and respect. This expectation in no way prohibits critical or unpopular comments.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

A. Public participation shall be permitted at the discretion of the Board. Public participation shall be for no longer than thirty (30) minutes, absent a vote of the majority of the Board to extend the time. If there are more persons wishing to address the Board at a particular meeting than can be heard in the allotted time, the presiding officer shall select speakers using a random process.

B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting, if any. However, if there are more persons wishing to address the Board at a particular meeting than can be heard in a thirty (30) minute period, a majority of the Board may vote to limit speakers to persons (1) residing within the Corporation; (2) employed by the Corporation; (3) having a child/children enrolled in the Corporation; or (4) individuals paying property taxes that accrue to the Corporation.

C. Public participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name. Prior to engaging in any public comment, the individual must sign up to speak before the start of the public comment period (which includes an acknowledgement of the Board's procedures).

D. Each statement made by a public participant shall be limited to two (2) minutes duration. No public participant shall be permitted to cede time to another speaker or speak more than once at the same meeting.

E. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members, administrators, or audience members individually. However, speakers may address topics related to Board members, administrators, or audience members as long as the speaker directs the comments to the presiding officer.

F. The presiding officer may:

1. terminate an individual's comments which are repetitive or threatening;
2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a public comment when the comment is too lengthy, not directed to the presiding officer, or obscene;
3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that individual behaves in a manner that interferes with or is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly individual when that individual's conduct interferes with or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting;
5. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time, when the lack of public decorum so interferes with or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting so as to warrant such action;

G. Tape or video recordings are permitted. The individual operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent's designee prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment. By engaging in the recording of the meeting, the recorder agrees to abide by the following conditions:

1. Not to create obstructions between the Board and the audience;
2. Not to conduct an interview during the Board meeting; and
3. Not to engage in commentary during the Board meeting that is distracting of the Board members or members of the audience.