

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. The period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.

Persons wishing to address the Board shall make a request in writing on a form provided by the district and shall include the name of the speaker, the address, telephone number, name of organization represented (if any), and a brief description of the topic to be addressed. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson.

Presentation should be as brief as possible. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than three (3) minutes. Speakers may comment on agenda items only at the first Public Comments section and other matters at the second Public Comments section.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns initially at the building level and thereafter, if necessary, to Central Administration and finally, in writing, to the Board of Education.

All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the President and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other district officials only upon the approval of the President. Board members and the Superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy.

Cross-ref: 2310, Regular Meetings
 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
 2350, Board Meeting Procedures

Ref: *Matter of Martin*, 32 EDR 381 (1992)
 Appeal of Wittenben, 31 EDR 375 (1992)
 Matter of Kramer, 72 EDR 114 (1951)
 NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government,
 OML-AO-#2696 (Jan. 8, 1997) and OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997)

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