

## **Public Participation at Board Meeting**

### **Policy BDDH (Also KD)**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

The Board is also committed to conducting its meetings in a productive efficient manner that assures the regular agenda of the board is completed in a reasonable period of time.

Consequently, public participation at Board meetings will be governed by the following principles:

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Superintendent no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. Name and address of the participant
- B. Group affiliation, if and when appropriate
- C. Topic to be addressed

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. The presiding officer at the meeting shall recognize each speaker. All speakers shall clearly identify themselves and group affiliation prior to their presentation. Each speaker shall adhere to all the rules of conduct and decorum established by the Board.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

1. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business at the discretion of the presiding officer.
2. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public speaks portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting no less than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
3. When registering to participate attendees will state the topic they wish to address during their allotted time. Attendees wishing to speak on items not on the agenda will have an opportunity at the end of the meeting, time permitting.
4. The Board requires that participants be residents or employees of the District or the designee of such residents or employees. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board is also entitled to express an opinion.

5. Subject matter must be limited to issues, without reference to personalities. Personnel matters are not appropriate topics to be discussed at regular Board meetings.
6. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by stating their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
7. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
8. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration unless extended by the presiding officer.
9. Audio or Video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder must contact the Superintendent five (5) days prior to the meeting to review possible placement of equipment, and must agree to abide by the following conditions:
  - a. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
  - b. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
  - c. 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.

The presiding officer may:

1. interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole will have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings;
2. prohibit public comments that are frivolous, repetitive, and/or harassing;
3. request an individual to stop speaking and/or leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
4. request assistance from law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
5. call for a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

The public participation portion of the meeting shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board.

The public is encouraged to refer school-related problems to appropriate school personnel rather than initiate there during Board meetings.

