

Public Participation at Board Meetings

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

Recognizing its responsibility for proper governance of the schools and therefore the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board shall schedule a period during each meeting for public participation. The periods designated as "Comments from the Public" near the beginning and ending of the agenda are for citizens to express their views, ask questions related to the school system or any topic related to the Board's governance of the schools. A person may also address the Board after introduction of a specific agenda item but prior to Board deliberation. A person desiring to speak shall be recognized by the President and shall provide his/her name and address prior to speaking. Each speaker shall be limited to 5 minutes unless extensions are approved by a majority vote of the Board.

The public participation portion of the meeting cannot be used to make personal attacks against a school board member or school district employee that are totally unrelated to the manner in which the member or employee performs his/her duties. If a citizen's comments constitute a complaint against a board member or employee, the member or employee has a right to request a closed meeting.

It is generally the practice of the Board not to engage in dialogue with the public during the meeting; however, the President may respond to questions or concerns or may defer to other Board members or the Superintendent for response. Issues may be referred to the Superintendent for investigation, study and recommendation or designated as a future agenda item for Board consideration.

During discussion of agenda items, Board members shall speak in a manner that permits other members and visitors to hear. The President may, if she/he deems it appropriate, recognize a member of the audience for information to assist the Board in its deliberations. Members of the staff may be requested to be present to discuss an agenda item.

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