



Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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0169.1 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

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 offers public participation to members of the public in accordance with the procedures below. The Board applies these procedures to all speakers and does not discriminate based on the identity of the speaker, content of the speech, or viewpoint of the speaker.

The Board is also committed to conducting its meetings in a productive and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a reasonable period of time, honors the voluntary nature of the Board's time and using that time efficiently, and allows for a fair and adequate opportunity for input to be considered.

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:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business and/or at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration unless extended by the presiding officer.
- E. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- F. The presiding officer may:
 1. prohibit public comments that are frivolous, repetitive, and/or harassing;
 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, off-topic, obscene, or irrelevant;
 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum or is disruptive to the conduct of the meeting;
 4. request the assistance of 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 an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;

6. waive these rules.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board.

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