

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board will be open to the public.

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.

In order to promote public participation and to facilitate the completion of the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, the Board has established two formal times during each meeting specifically for public participation. Each period shall be known as “public participation.” The first shall be at the beginning of the meeting and shall consist of up to 30 minutes. The second period shall be established at the end of each meeting. This period shall end when the last person who wishes to speak has done so. Speakers in both periods of public participation shall be limited to three minutes. The length may be extended at the discretion of the Board President.

Participants must be residents of the District, or be the resident’s designee and be introduced as such, and have a legitimate interest in the action of the Board. The Board may also recognize representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board. The Board may also recognize any employee or student of the District except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation under Board policies or negotiated agreements.

Members of the public shall be able to speak during the body of the meeting or to ask questions of an individual Board member or the Superintendent at the discretion of the Board President.

Attendees are encouraged to register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.

Up to 10 people will be permitted to address the Board during the first public participation period of the meeting. Each person will be allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. The actual length of time for the first public participation period will be determined by the number of presenters multiplied by the three-minute time limit per speaker. Each person addressing the Board is required to provide his/her name and address. Additional persons requesting to address the Board will be scheduled during the second public participation portion of the meeting.

Although no members of the community will ultimately be denied the right to bring his/her complaints to the Board, any person with a complaint about a specific individual/employee will first be referred to the proper administrative channels for the exploration of possible resolutions before the presentation to, investigation by, or action by the Board.

The Board believes that complaints are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The staff should be given the opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problems prior to involvement by the Board. Therefore, the proper channeling of complaints will be as follows:

1. Employee
2. Supervisor/principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board

If the proper channels have not been followed, the person making the complaint will be referred to the Superintendent and/or other appropriate Board employee. Complaints will not be heard by the Board until the proper channels have been followed. Written complaints submitted directly to the Board will be referred to the school administration for study and possible solution in accordance with this policy. Complaints about school personnel will be investigated fully and fairly. The complaint must include the resolution the person making the complaint is seeking. Anonymous complaints will not be considered.

Should the person submitting the complaint remain dissatisfied with the response of the administration after compliance with the complaint procedure set forth in this policy, he/she may request that the matter be placed on the agenda for the Board meeting during which an executive session may be scheduled to hear the complaint. Any Board action on the matter shall be taken in public session.

Persons who disregard this policy will be out of order and asked to cease public discussion. If the request is denied, he/she will be requested to leave the meeting. If the request is ignored, he/she will be removed from the premises, by the appropriate officials, and further legal action may follow. The presiding officer may 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.

- [Adoption date: July 1967]
- [Re-adoption date: March 15, 1990]
- [Re-adoption date: August 18, 1994]
- [Re-adoption date: January 5, 2006]
- [Re-adoption date: May 15, 2008]
- [Re-adoption date: August 21, 2014]
- [Re-adoption date: June 21, 2018]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3313.20

CROSS REFS.: BCE, Board Committees
BD, School Board Meetings
BDDB, Agenda Format
BDDC, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
BG, Board-Staff Communications (Also GBD)