

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board desires citizens of the district to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation of the schools and so that the Board may have an opportunity to hear the comments, suggestions and concerns of the public. In an effort to inform citizens in advance of matters to be considered at the Board of Education meetings, advance notice of all regular and special meetings will be provided to the community media. Agenda items that are anticipated at the time of the press release for each meeting may be briefly outlined.

Although the public has the right to attend Board meetings, it has no inherent right to participate in the deliberations of the Board without its consent. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board will not hear complaints about school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individual employees of the district.

The President of the Board will recognize persons requesting to be heard. If the topic to be discussed is not on the Board agenda, it will be discussed under public commentary. If the topic is on the agenda, members of the audience desiring to speak must request time. Members of the audience granted time to speak may do so following the introduction of the topic by the President of the Board and then recognition to address the Board.

It is suggested, although not required, that persons or delegates desiring to be heard before the Board of Education regarding topics not on the prepared agenda, notify the Superintendent and/or Board President of the topic no later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting.

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

Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. A maximum of thirty minutes of public participation will be permitted at each meeting.
- B. Any person wishing to be heard by the Board should first discuss the matter with the appropriate person on the Superintendent's administrative staff and with the Superintendent;
- C. Any group appearing before the Board shall select a spokesperson to address the Board. Other members of the group shall not address the Board except with the permission of the presiding officer;

- D. A speaker must be recognized by the presiding officer and shall present his/her name, address, group affiliation, if any, and topic to be discussed on a card provided, and said card shall be presented to the Treasurer before the start of the meeting;
- E. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes. If several people wish to speak, each person will be allotted three minutes until the total time of thirty (30) minutes is used. At the discretion of the presiding officer, more or less time, per person, may be allocated;
- F. All presentations must be done in an orderly fashion and must not impede the meeting either before, during, or after the presentation;
- G. Generally speaking, individuals will be recognized to speak once on a given topic;
- H. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members or administrators, individually;
- I. Board members may ask the speaker questions or make comments in order to clarify the discussion;
- J. Public statements on work session topics will not be taken.
- K. The presiding officer may:
1. Interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, repetitive, obscene, irrelevant, or statements which constitute personal attacks, insults, or offenses directed specifically at an individual, which instantly inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace or otherwise constitute unprotected "fighting words" under federal court jurisprudence;
 2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 3. 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;
 4. 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; and/or
 5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

Adopted: __October, 2021____