



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Ready for Board
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
Code	po0167.3
Status	First Reading
Adopted	August 5, 2019
Last Revised	June 16, 2022
Last Reviewed	June 16, 2022

0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on Corporation matters.

~~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 name and address of the participant, group affiliation, if and when appropriate, and topic to be addressed.~~

~~Such requests shall be reviewed by () the Board President (X) the Superintendent and the Board President () the Superintendent or the Board President [END OF OPTION] and shall be placed on the agenda only if approved by () the Board President (X) the Superintendent and the Board President () the Superintendent or the Board President [END OF OPTIONS]. The amount of time for agenda items for any person or group who have been approved for a presentation on the Board agenda shall be limited as set forth above.~~

~~Such requests shall be reviewed by the Superintendent and the Board President and shall be placed on the agenda only if approved by the Board President.~~

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board ~~may~~ **shall** provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken and publish procedures to govern such participation in Board meetings. **However, public participation may be excluded during meetings conducted virtually due to a disaster emergency.**

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the procedures 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.
- B. ~~Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.~~
- C. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- D. 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.

- E. **Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.** No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually. Comments must be about programs, policies or procedures. Comments about building staff and/or children other than the speaker's child(ren) shall not be heard in public session.
- G. The presiding officer may:
1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive ~~of~~ **to the** orderly 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 with the approval of the Board, **and the extent permitted by law**, when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.
- H. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to a timeframe not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board. **However, every person that is physically present and has followed the reasonable rules set forth above shall be permitted an opportunity to provide oral public comment by dividing the total time for oral public comment by the number of persons providing oral public comment.**

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PLACING AN ITEM ON THE BOARD AGENDA

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 name and address of the participant; group affiliation, if and when appropriate; and topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be reviewed by (X) the Superintendent and the Board President and shall be placed on the Agenda only if approved by (X) the Superintendent and the Board President.

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I.C. 5-14-1.5-1

I.C. 5-14-1.5 Open Door Law notice to the public and news media of regular, emergency and special meetings

I.C. 20-26-4-3 Notice of meetings to Board members