

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Background

The public is cordially invited to attend Board meetings. The Board conducts meetings for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the District. The meetings are not public forum meetings, but are meetings held in public. Orderly conduct of a meeting does not permit spontaneous discussion from the audience. The Sunshine Act requires districts to provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment at all advertised meetings. Comments are to be limited to matters of concern, official action or deliberation, which are, or may be, before the Board. The Board may adopt reasonable rules for the comment period.

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria to assure that persons wishing to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, to assure that the meetings are conducted properly and efficiently.

Policy

1. Any Mt. Lebanon resident or taxpayer desiring to reserve an opportunity to address the School Board at a Discussion, or Business or Special meeting concerning Action agenda items should, by the Friday noon preceding the meeting, arrange with the office of the Superintendent to be placed on the agenda for that meeting. Placement on the agenda will be in the order the requests are received.
2. Any other residents or taxpayers wishing to address the School Board concerning Action items on the agenda will be given the opportunity to address the Board after the Reports and prior to Board action on agenda items, as time permits.
3. Residents and taxpayers will be given the opportunity to speak prior to official action on any item at all Discussion, Business, and Special meetings of the Board. Comments must be related to the Action items. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes unless modified by the presiding officer of the meeting.
4. At the conclusion of all Discussion, Business and Special Meetings, public comment from residents and taxpayers will be received on other matters, not just those related to Action items on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes, and the Board may limit the total time allowed for all public comments.
5. Questions asked by speakers shall, when possible, be answered by the Board President, Superintendent, a Board Member, or referred to the District administrator or other staff members for reply. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the District administration for later response.
6. Speakers are required to provide their full name and address to the Board.
7. Complaints regarding personnel should be referred privately to appropriate District staff, District administrator, or the Board President. (See Policy KE Public Concerns and Complaints)

8. The Board President shall reserve the right to terminate the speaker's comments if the comments may defame or injure the reputation of another, and/or are disruptive or profane.
9. If the Board determines that there is not sufficient time for all public comment, such comment may be deferred until the next regular or special meeting.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. All Administrators
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted July 19, 2004
Reviewed October 7, 2015
Reviewed November 8, 2021
Revised June 13, 2022