

POLICY

2000-18

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Adoption Date: August 14, 2018; Revised June 14, 2022

Legal Ref:

Cross Ref:

The School Board receives public comment out of the Board's legal duty and a sincere desire to improve the quality of the School Corporation's educational program.

Subject to the reasonable rules and registration process described herein, the Board shall allow members of the public, physically present at a meeting, to provide oral comment before the Board takes final action on a topic. The Board may choose to allow public comment during an electronic meeting held during a declared emergency or local disaster.

1. To allow for an efficient meeting, the total amount of time dedicated to public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board may increase the time allotted for public comment in order to meet obligations under law.
2. The Board shall allot each person providing public comment three (3) minutes to speak.
3. Persons wishing to address the Board on agenda items are based on the following priority order and will be asked to address the Board in the order of when they completed the registration form:

Current WWS Parents/Guardians
Current WWS Students
Current District Residents
Others in order of registering before the start of the meeting

The registration form will include the name of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any), and identify the agenda item to be addressed. The form must be submitted five (5) minutes before the start of the scheduled meeting time.

4. No person may speak more than once on the same topic

The purpose of public comment is to give the Board members as much information as possible, not to engage in debate. Board members or administrators may provide answers to questions asked during public comment if the information is readily available and not confidential. Often, however, questions will not be answered, but taken under advisement and answers may be returned at a later time.

The Board will not tolerate comments that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, defamatory, personal attacks, or on a topic outside of the agenda. Comments should be directed to the Board, not an individual Board member.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the Board from taking reasonable steps to maintain order in a meeting, including removal of any person who is willfully disruptive of the meeting.