

## **Board of Education**

### **Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

For a first public participation session of up to 30 minutes during each regular and special open meeting, any person may comment or ask questions of the School Board (*public participation*), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. The length of the first public participation session may be extended when atypical circumstances exist in the sole judgment and discretion of the Board. After the first public participation session, the Board will conduct the business of its meeting. A second public participation session may be added to the end of the meeting to accommodate persons who did not have a chance to speak in the first session. During the first public participation session, there will generally be a twenty-minute maximum total length of time for any one subject. The Board may exercise its discretion to allow more than twenty minutes on a topic of widespread interest.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, such comments shall be limited to three minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request in advance to speak for a longer period of time, the individual may be allowed to speak for more than-three minutes. Questions are to be directed to the Board as a whole and may not be put to any individual members of the Board or administrative staff. Most questions posed to the Board may be taken under advisement and dealt with later.
3. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board President's decision to:
  - a. Shorten public comment to conserve time and give the maximum number of individuals an opportunity to speak;
  - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
  - 4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy, 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Generally, signed petitions or written correspondence to the Board, will be referred to the staff for review and presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Anonymous correspondence or unsigned petitions will not be considered.

Disruptive conduct will not be permitted at any Board meeting, nor will any defamatory or abusive remarks be tolerated. The President may terminate the privilege of address of any speaker who violates this Policy.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/2.06.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the  
Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property),  
8:110 (Public Suggestions and Complaints)

ADOPTED: January 25, 2011

REVISED: December 17, 2019