

Public Participation at Meetings  
ISBA Code: 1305

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

Public Comments shall be permitted under the agenda item entitled “Public Comments” and be restricted to items appearing on the agenda of the Board meeting.

The persons who wish to address the Board during the agenda item entitled “Public Comments” must sign in prior to the start of the Board meeting and list the agenda item(s) on which the visitor wishes to speak.

Persons who wish to address the Board must state the following:

- a. Name and address;
- b. Group affiliation, if any; and
- c. Agenda item to be addressed.

Persons who have residency within the boundaries of the school corporation and/or who have children enrolled in the school corporation will be given first priority to address the school board.

Public comments shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes or longer based on the number of persons signed up to speak and the length of the agenda, as determined by the Board President.

The Board President shall administer the procedures of the Board and shall be guided by the following rules:

1. A person must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if any.
2. The Board President may limit each speaker to no more than three (3) minutes.
3. No person may speak more than once on the same agenda item.
4. All statements shall be directed to the Board; no person may address or question Board members individually.
5. Persons making comments shall not debate statements made by other persons.
6. Boisterous conduct will not be permitted; nor will any defamatory remarks be tolerated.

The Board President may terminate any person addressing the Board for persistent violations of rules or disruptive conduct.

The Board President may:

1. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a person’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, obscene or irrelevant;

2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum or engages in disruptive behavior;
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; or
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.

Legal Reference: IC 5-14-2.5-3.5  
Board Adopted: August 8, 1994  
Board Revised: June 9, 2008;  
August 8, 2022;  
September 13, 2023