

Public Participation Guidelines

Visitors are welcome at the Board meetings. The Board encourages active community involvement and appreciates your feedback. Please follow the Board's policy for Public Participation when planning your remarks to the Board.

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda registers their intent with the Superintendent no later than five days prior to the meeting and include:

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

Such requests are subject to the approval of the Superintendent and the Board President.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board or at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rule:

1. Public participation shall be permitted:
 1. as indicated on the order of business and
 2. before the Board takes official action.
2. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
3. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
4. Each statement made by a participant may be limited to three minutes duration, unless extended by the presiding officer.
5. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.

6. Tape or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and must agree to abide by the following conditions:
 1. no obstructions are created between the Board and the audience;
 2. no interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session and
 3. no commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session and not disrupt the meeting.
7. The presiding officer may:
 1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, or, obscene;
 2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 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;
 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.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to the discretion of the Superintendent, unless extended by a vote of the Board.