

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board desires to be cognizant of the problems, requests, complaints, and suggestions of members of the community. One of the mechanisms to achieve this is public participation in Board meetings, which will be permitted as follows:

Public Comment

The Board of Education allots in each of its Board meetings up to 30 minutes for citizens' participation. One 15-minute segment is allocated at the beginning of the meeting, and one 15-minute segment is allocated at the conclusion of the meeting.

Citizens are encouraged to refer school-related problems to appropriate school personnel rather than initiate these during Board meetings. If problems have not been resolved through the administrative process, a speaker should indicate efforts made to bring about such a resolution. The presiding officer will make every effort to recognize speakers in the order in which they seek recognition. Speakers are to state their names and whether they are speaking as an individual or organization.

The major purpose of citizens' participation is for the Board of Education to hear citizens' views on ways to improve the educational program and ways to improve the processes, including communication, for bringing about such improvements.

Personnel matters are not appropriate topics to be discussed at regular Board meetings. In order to comply with the First Amendment, the Board will not entertain protracted public comment with in favor of or against a staff member. If a speaker makes defamatory statements or invades the privacy rights of a student or employee, the speaker is responsible for such statements and may be held liable.

Members of the public speaking as individuals or a member who represents an organization will be allotted up to three (3) minutes. If time does not permit all those wishing to speak to do so, a sign-up sheet will be available for these persons to register so that they can be recognized first at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Agenda Accessibility

To permit community members to be heard, and at the same time to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board establishes the following procedures for persons wishing to be on the agenda of a regular meeting.

1. The person should inform the Superintendent of his or her desire, topic with brief description, and any group he or she may represent at least eight (8) days before the meeting.

2. The person will be allowed 15 minutes for a presentation, although an extension of time may be granted by the Superintendent / Board President in scheduling the agenda, or later by the Board as it hears the person.
3. Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints about school personnel or other persons at a public session. Other channels provide for Board consideration of complaints involving individuals.

Adopted 1/25/88

Revised 1/28/92, 10/26/92, 2/22/94, 8/23/94, 2/26/08, 9/9/14, 2/1/16, 4/25/22, 3/25/24