

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

### 0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

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

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall set aside 30 minutes of every Board meeting for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district. This may be extended by a majority vote of the Board members present.

Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw 0164.

Board participation may be extended to residents of the district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on services and materials solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of the district, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board. While nonresidents will be permitted to make comments, Sayreville residents will be given the opportunity to speak first.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable;
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration;
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic;
4. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member;
5. The presiding officer may:



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- a. Interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy;
- b. Interrupt and/or warn a participant when the statement, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory;
- c. Request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- d. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with a meeting;
- e. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting; and
- f. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or to maintain an orderly operation of the Board meeting.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 30 July 2024

