

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationPublic Participation at Board MeetingsA. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at Board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The President has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The President may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

B. Hear

The Board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (phone, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a board meeting, except for closed sessions. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings ~~at which a public forum is on the Agenda~~. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the President. ~~The Board is not required to allow members of the public to speak at each meeting. However, the Board will not forbid public participation at all meetings.~~

Option #1: For all meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to 3 minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to 30 cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

~~Option #2: For regular meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to \_\_\_\_\_ cumulative minutes of public comment. For all meetings other than regular meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to \_\_\_\_\_ cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.~~

Members of the public will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Any member of the public desiring to address the body shall be required to identify himself or herself in writing, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person, unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

~~The President or chair for the meeting shall have the authority to establish reasonable time limits for individual speakers and for the duration of public forum sessions.~~

~~Option #3: To ensure the Board completes its business during meetings other than regular meetings, public comment will be listed at the end of the agenda for all meetings other than regular meetings.~~

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

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