

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHOREWOOD

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT REGULAR 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 District matters.

Board of Education Meeting Agenda

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall make a request in writing to the Superintendent or the Board President no later than seven days prior to the meeting and include:

1. Name and address of participant;
2. Group Affiliation, if and when appropriate; and
3. Topic to be addressed.

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

Public Participation Section of a Board Meeting

The Board of Education encourages community members to attend meetings so they may become better acquainted with the operations and programs of the District, and that the Board may have an opportunity to hear public comments regarding District matters.

Public Comment

Public comments may be presented at the time period designated by the Board. The Board shall listen to district community member's comments but shall not discuss, deliberate or take action on any item raised in any matter not included in the public notice of the meeting.

General Public Comment Guidelines

The Board President shall recognize all speakers. Each person when called upon will stand and come to the front of the room. He/she will be asked to provide his/her name and address. However, no person shall be denied the opportunity to speak at the meeting if they do not share their personal information.

Speakers shall be as brief as possible. Discussion of any single item may be limited at the discretion of the Board President.

No person may speak more than once to an issue or for a period longer than five minutes, except upon the consent of

a majority of the Board. No more than three people may be heard on one side of an issue, except upon the consent of a majority of the Board.

During the public comment period, the Board shall not consider or discuss complaints or grievances regarding District employees. Such concerns should be initially brought to the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor or submitted as a complaint in accordance with District complaint procedures.

The Board President may terminate remarks of any individual who does not adhere to established guidelines for public participation at Board meetings, who speaks in a threatening or profane manner, or who is otherwise unable to conduct him/herself in a civilized manner.

- A. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- B. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 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; or
 - 5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 19.81 Wisconsin Statutes
19.83(2)
19.84(2)
19.85

CROSS REF.: 150.2, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

APPROVED: December 11, 2001
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