

207 PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. PURPOSE

The governing board recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters properly before the governing board during a public hearing. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

For the governing board to efficiently receive public input on matters properly before the governing board, the governing board establishes the procedures set forth in this policy are established.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Public Hearings

Public hearings are required by law concerning certain issues, including but not limited to, school closings (Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51), education district establishment (Minnesota Statutes section 123A.15), and agreements for secondary education (Minnesota Statutes section 123A.30). Additionally, other public hearings may be held by the governing board on school district matters at the governing board's discretion.

B. Notice of Public Hearings

Public notice of a public hearing required by law shall be given as provided by the enabling legislation. Public notice of other hearings shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the governing board.

C. Public Participation

The governing board retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the governing board and complete and file with the clerk of the governing board an appropriate request card prior to commencement of the hearing if the governing board utilizes this procedure. In that case, any request to address the governing board after the commencement of

the hearing will be granted only at the governing board's discretion.

1. Format of Request: If required by the governing board, a written request of an individual or a group to address the governing board shall contain the name of the person or group seeking to address the governing board. It shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.
2. Time Limitation: The governing board retains the discretion to limit the time for each presentation as needs dictate.
3. Groups: The governing board retains the discretion to require that any group of persons who desire to address the governing board designate one representative or spokesperson. If the governing board requires designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other person in the group will be recognized to address the governing board, except as the governing board otherwise determines.
4. Privilege to Speak: A governing board member should direct any remarks or questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the governing board, or the proceedings may be directed to leave.
5. Personal Attacks: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the governing board are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the governing board.
6. Limitations on Participation: Depending upon the number of persons in attendance seeking to be heard, the governing board reserves the right to impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary to provide an orderly, efficient, and fair opportunity to be heard.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123A.15 (Establishing Education Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (Schoolhouses and Sites; Uses for School and Nonschool Purposes; Closings)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 206 (Public Participation in Governing board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at Governing board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations)