

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION at BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Rules for members of the public who wish to speak to the Board about matters of public concern:

- **Getting Started:** Anyone wishing to participate in public comment during a Board meeting must first complete a “Public Comment Request Card”. This card will be given to the Recording Secretary at the time of public comment as designated on the official agenda. Those participating in public comment must state their name, address and the name of any organization they are representing prior to addressing the Board.
- **Time Limit:** The Board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to 2.5 minutes. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the Board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** The District has a complaint Policy and/or procedures to resolve personnel or student complaints and concerns. The Board requests that anyone wishing to speak on these matters follow the Policy and procedures before addressing them with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions or comments about any matter, including comments about any individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated. Conduct or speech that disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of business by the Board may result in removal from the meeting.
- **No Action by the Board:** The Board will not act on any matter raised during the public comment period unless it is on the meeting agenda.
- **Maintaining Order**
 - It is the responsibility of the presiding officer (President) to maintain order. During public comment time, the presiding officer has the authority to declare any person out of order and to refuse permission to address, or to continue addressing, the Board if such person’s actions are contrary to Board Policy 1280, any other Board Policy or the above Board rules for public comment.
 - Any person who engages in conduct contrary to the provisions of these rules or Policy 1280 (or any other Board Policy, rule or regulation, or applicable law) at any time during a Board meeting, and who persists in such conduct after notice by the presiding officer to discontinue such conduct, may be directed to leave the proceedings. Any person who refuses to leave after being so directed or who willfully disturbs a meeting of the Board, is subject to the criminal penalties provided by Nebraska law.