

Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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0169.1 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

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

The Board is also committed to conducting its meetings in a productive and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a reasonable period of time, honors the voluntary nature of the Board's time and using that time efficiently, and allows for a fair and adequate opportunity for input to be considered. Consequently, public participation at Board meetings will be governed by the following principles:

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board may provide a period for public participation at the public meeting of the Board and publishes rules to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those present and voting.

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business in the bylaws of this Board or at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. The Board requires that public participants be residents of this District, an employee of this District, or anyone having a legitimate interest in the action of the Board.
- C. All persons wishing to be placed on the agenda of the public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Superintendent five (5) days in advance of the meeting unless circumstances warrant an exception and include name and address of the participant, group affiliation if appropriate, and topic to be addressed.
- D. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if appropriate.
- E. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- F. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
- H. Tape or video recordings are permitted, providing the person operating the recorder has contacted the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
 - 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
 - 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
 - 3. No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session.
- I. The presiding officer may:

1. prohibit public comments that are frivolous, repetitive, and/or harassing;
2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, off-topic, antagonistic, obscene, or irrelevant;
3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
4. 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;
5. 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;
6. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

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Last Modified by Robin Dosser on July 11, 2017