

Public Participation at School Board Meetings

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of all citizens throughout the district and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule time during some Board meetings for brief comments and questions from the public. Public comment periods will relate to specific items on the agenda. The Board shall set a time limit on the length of the public participation time and a time limit for individual speakers.

During times of general public comment at a regular meeting, comments and questions will deal with any topic related to the Board's role in policy-making or the content of its policies. Comments are limited to 3 minutes for each individual. A group or committee wishing to address the Board should select one individual to serve as a spokesperson. Maximum of 10 minutes is then allowed.

Comments at Special Meetings must be related to the call of the meeting. Speakers may offer such criticism of school operations and programs as concern them, but are encouraged to exercise their speech rights responsibly. Discussion of all personnel matters will be conducted in executive session in accordance with the Board's meeting rules.

The Board president shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers who have signed in and who have properly identified themselves, for maintaining proper order and for adherence to any time limits set. Questions asked by the public shall, when possible, be answered by a member of the Board or referred to the superintendent for immediate reply. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Superintendent for consideration and later response. Time allotted for public comments and questions shall be adhered to in order that the meeting may proceed with the business at hand. Board members needing additional information are encouraged to meet with individuals at the conclusion of the scheduled meeting.

Members of the public will only be recognized by the president during Board meetings as noted in this procedure or at the Board president's discretion.

Members of the public wishing to make formal presentations before the Board should make arrangements in advance with the Superintendent so that such presentations, when appropriate, may be scheduled on the agenda.

In addition to public participation time during Board meetings, the Board is committed to engaging members of the community on an ongoing basis regarding community values about education during times other than the Board's regular meetings.