

() Required
(X) Local
(X) Notice

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted in public, and the public has the right to attend all such meetings. At its discretion, the Board may invite visitors to its meetings to participate in the Board's discussion of matters on the agenda. To allow for public participation, which may include but not be limited to: voicing opinions on school operations and calling issues to the attention of the board, a period not to exceed 15 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. The period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.

Persons wishing to speak shall:

1. be recognized by the President
2. identify themselves, their residence, and/or any organization they may be representing at the meeting
3. identify the agenda topic they wish to discuss.

Comments should be kept as brief as possible and relate to school matters. Individual comments may be limited to three minutes. Those items brought to the attention of the Board during this time may be taken under consideration for future response or action.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students as these comments may be an invasion of privacy. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.

All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

The President is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on matters such as:

- the time to be allowed for public discussion
- the appropriateness of the subject being presented

The President is responsible, as outlined in this policy and applicable provisions of law and regulation and subject to the Board's parliamentary procedure. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy. Furthermore, if the President determines the Board is being precluded from conducting its business in an efficient and reasonable time frame, he/she may adjourn the meeting.

Ref: *Matter of Martin*, 32 EDR 381 (1992)
Appeal of Wittenben, 31 EDR 375 (1992)
Matter of Kramer, 72 EDR 114 (1951)
NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government,
OML-AO-#2696 (Jan. 8, 1997) and OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997)

Adoption date: February 8, 2018