

Rules of Public Participation

The Board President shall, at the appropriate time, ask those members of the public attending the Board meeting if any of them have something to bring to the attention of the Board. All those wishing to address the Board shall be subject to the following procedural regulations:

- ✓ The public participation portion of the meeting shall be limited to one-half hour. An exception can be made so that those in attendance may address the Board. This period can be extended by a 2/3 vote of the elected Board members.
- ✓ Each person shall be allowed to speak for up to five minutes, except where the number of speakers exceeds the time limit. In those instances, the Board President may either reduce the five-minute limit to a three-minute limit for each speaker or the Board may waive the one-half hour time limit and establish a longer time period. All persons wishing to address the Board shall identify themselves by name and address. If an individual is representing an organization or group, the person should indicate whether the comments or presentation represents the official view of the organization or group. If a delegation is present to address the Board, the delegation may select two representatives to speak on its behalf, for a total of not more than 10 minutes.
- ✓ All written statements should be given to the Board Secretary so that copies may be made available to all Board members. All written statements and documents presented to the Board by an individual group during the meeting become the possession of the school district and are considered public documents.
- ✓ Individuals addressing the Board should take into consideration the rules of common courtesy. The public participation portion of the meeting shall not be used to make personal attacks against Board members or district employees. The Board member or employee has a right to request that any complaint be addressed in closed session. Complaints will be handled as prescribed in the section regarding handling complaints.
- ✓ Board members may choose to question some speakers, but are not obligated to answer questions or make statements in response to issues raised by the public. In general, such issues will be referred to the Superintendent for investigation, study, and recommendation or be designated as future agenda items for Board consideration. Board members and staff members should allow the public comments to be made in a non-threatening environment and should avoid discussion and debate with members of the public who choose to make comments.
- ✓ Handling of Complaints — The Board President shall inform those in attendance of the procedures regarding complaints prior to the beginning of the public comment section of the meeting. Complaints shall first be considered through proper channels before being considered by the Board. The Board shall not hear complaints at an open meeting about named district personnel unless the named district personnel requests the Board to hear the complaint at an open session.

*** Board of Education Bylaws***
