

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings, as outlined in this policy. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during the first part of each Board meeting for public comment, with priority given to comments on items on the meeting's agenda.

Presentation should be as brief as possible. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than three minutes. Speakers may comment on any matter related to district business and/or agenda items.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students; present or past. 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.

Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the President. In order to avoid providing misinformation, the Board President generally will not answer questions posed during public comment. Direct questions or comments to Board members or other district officials may only be upon the approval of the President. Board members and the Superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

Questions and comments from the public will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented, 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.

POLICY

2021 1512
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SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (Cont'd)

Ref: *Appeal of Kushner*, 49 EDR 263 (2010) (boards not required to allow the public to speak)
Matter of Martin, 32 EDR 381 (1992) (boards need not permit nonresidents to speak)
Appeal of Wittneben, 31 EDR 375 (1992) (boards encouraged to permit citizens to speak)
Matter of Kramer, 72 St. Dept. Rep. 114 (1951) (boards may put time limits on public speaking)
NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government, Advisory Opinions
OML-AO-#2696 (Jan. 8, 1997), OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997), OML-AO-#3295 (Apr. 16, 2001), OML-AO-#3518 (Aug. 30, 2002), OML-AO-#4141 (Feb. 24, 2006), OML-AO-#4044 (Sept. 30, 2005), OML-AO-#4292 (Dec. 6, 2006)

Adoption date: May 18, 2021