

Book	Policy Manual
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### 0167.3 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education desires citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and program of the schools and that the Board may have opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public.

Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel. Such complaints should be submitted in writing to the Board and aired in an open or closed session according to the wishes of the person(s) involved.

The Board vests in its President or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded, as a point of information, that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Superintendent no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. name and address of the participant;
- B. group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent and the Board President.

Denial of the opportunity to have an item placed on the agenda will not preclude an individual or group from the opportunity to speak during the public participation portion of the meeting.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at public meetings of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings and in Board committee meetings.

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

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business.

- B. Anyone with concerns related to the operation of the schools or to matters within the authority of the Board may participate during the designated public participation portion(s) of a meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- H. The presiding officer may:
  - 1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's session when they make comments that are repetitive, obscene, and/or comments that constitute a true threat (i.e., statements meant to frighten or intimate one (1) or more specified persons into believing that they will be seriously harmed by the speaker or someone acting at the speaker's behest);
  - 2. request any individual to stop speaking and/or leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct and/or progress of the meeting;
  - 3. 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;
  - 4. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the conduct and/or orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.
- I. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to one (1) hour unless extended by a vote of the Board.

The Board may permit individuals to attend meetings remotely through live broadcast; however, public participation will be limited to those who are in attendance at the meeting site only. The Board is not responsible for any technology failures that prevent or disrupt any individual from attending remotely.

Audio or video recordings are permitted subject to the following conditions:

- A. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
- B. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
- C. 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.

The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment.