



Board of Education Public Participation Guidelines

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period of public participation at every meeting of the Board, and publish procedures to govern such participation.

Each speaker may address the Board on educational issues and District related matters that concern them. A District related matter is an issue or topic relevant to the operation or governance of the District. Generally, School Board members do not respond to public comments during the meeting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by and administer the following procedures relating to public speaking:

1. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and be requested to preface their comments by announcement of their first and last name.
2. Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the time is reduced due to size of the group speaking on the same topic, or because the business of the Board is impeded by lengthy public comment on non-agenda items. Public participation will be limited to 30 minutes. Additional time for public participation may be added to the end of the meeting if necessary to provide all speakers the opportunity to comment.
3. Speakers shall direct all comments to the Board, not to staff or other participants. Speakers should take into consideration the rules of common courtesy and respect. Questions raised during public comment will receive a response within 10 business days.
4. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a speaker's statement when the statement has exceeded the time limit or is, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Reduce the amount of time and/or adjourn public comment on non-agenda items to another meeting whenever the circumstances warrant, including length of a meeting agenda, a large number of persons wishing to speak on the same issue, or other similar reason impeding the business of the Board, or preventing the conclusion of a meeting at a reasonable time;
 - c. Requests any individual to leave the meeting when that person engages in a breach of the peace including abusive, disorderly, threatening, or aggressive conduct;
 - d. Requests the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person commits a breach of the peace disrupting the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - e. Call for recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and/or
 - f. Suspend or modify the rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.