



Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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0169.1 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. The Board offers public participation to members of the public in accordance with the procedures below. The Board applies these procedures to all speakers and does not discriminate based on the identity of the speaker, content of the speech, or viewpoint of the speaker.

The Board is also committed to conducting its meetings in a productive and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a reasonable period of time, honors the voluntary nature of the Board's time and using that time efficiently, and allows for a fair and adequate opportunity for input to be considered. Consequently, public participation at Board meetings will be governed by this bylaw.

Photographic and electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special Board meetings legally open to the public according to the following guidelines.

- A. Photographing, broadcasting and recording meetings are permitted only when all parties involved have been informed that cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices are being used.
- B. Persons operating cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and no commentary is to be given in a manner that distracts Board members or the audience.
- C. The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting. The Board may make the necessary arrangements to make audio recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board 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 at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the designated public participation portion(s) of a meeting.
- C. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public participation portion of the meeting as directed by the District.
- D. Individuals may not register others to speak during public participation.
- E. Participants must first be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.

F. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five minutes duration unless reduced or extended by the presiding officer and shall not be permitted to yield their time to another speaker.

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 intimidate 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 does not observe reasonable decorum or is disruptive to the conduct and/or orderly 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 conduct and/or 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 orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.
5. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

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