



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Section B: School Board Governance And Operations
Title	Public Participation at Board Meetings
Code	BDDH (Also KD)
Status	Active
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Last Revised	April 10, 2023
Prior Revised Dates	10/13/2008, 12/14/2009, 08/15/2016

### **Public Participation at Board Meetings**

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period of not more than 30 minutes total of public participation at every public meeting of the Board and publishes 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:

1. Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the bylaws of this Board and at the discretion of the presiding officer.
2. The Board requires that public participants address only the items, which require Board action.
3. Public participation is limited to individuals that live within the school district or have children that attend the District.
4. All persons wishing to participate in a public Board meeting whose issue requires Board action shall register their intent with the Superintendent by noon the day of the meeting and include name and address of the participant, group affiliation if and when appropriate, and topic to be addressed.
5. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation if and when appropriate.
6. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes duration.
7. The presiding officer may:
  - A. interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant;
  - B. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - C. 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;
  - D. 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 or
  - E. allow the participant to exceed the three-minute limit if deemed necessary.
8. When recognized, each public participant will be asked to:

- A. address the Board at the microphone so that remarks may be clearly heard and recorded;
- B. give his/her name, address and group affiliation when appropriate;
- C. limit comments to three minutes;
- D. not specifically name individuals, employees and/or students and
- E. be courteous and respectful.

Board members may ask questions of the speaker for information or clarification and may or may not make comments in response to a speaker's remarks. It should be noted that this section of the agenda is to hear the views of citizens about their schools. No board member has the power or authority to act for the board; therefore, no response from an individual board member should be interpreted as an official action of the Board. Portions of the board meeting are audio recorded.

#### Legal

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[ORC 121.22](#)

[ORC 3313.20](#)

#### Cross References

[BCE - Board Committees](#)

[BD - School Board Meetings](#)

[BDDC - Agenda Preparation and Dissemination](#)

[BG \(Also GBD\) - Board-Staff Communications](#)