

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

The School Board 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.

Members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before the Board. For purposes of these bylaws, a proposition shall be understood to mean an item for which the Board shall take official action. This will be in accordance to F.S. 286.0114.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken 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 and before the Board takes official position on any action item under consideration.
- B. Any person who wishes to speak on a proposition on which the Board will take official action or during the public comments portion of the meeting, must, prior to the commencement of the proposition or public comment portion of the meeting, complete and submit a card in person, identifying the proposition to be addressed or whether it is part of public comments.
- C. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name.
- D. Each statement related to new or old business made by a speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration, unless changed by the presiding officer. Persons will be recognized in the order in which the requests were received.
- E. Speakers wishing to address consent items will be allowed the following time limits based on the number of items they identify for comment: one (1) item will be allowed three (3) minutes; two (2) items will be limited to one (1) four (4) minute period; three (3) or more items will be limited to one (1) five (5) minute period. If the speaker is addressing more than one consent item, all items must be addressed during the one (1) allotted time frame.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually. Staff members shall not be expected to answer questions from the audience unless called upon by the Board Chair or the Superintendent.
- G. Tape or video recordings are permitted under the following conditions:
  1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
  2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
  3. 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.

H. The presiding officer may:

1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a speaker's statement when such statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, irrelevant or repetitive. Comments that are personally directed are allowed when they are related to the topic being discussed or within the scope of District business so long as such comments are not abusive, obscene, irrelevant, or repetitive;
2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
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 orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

No Board action shall be taken on requests made during public discussion unless the Board declares the matter to be an emergency in accordance with current law. Any other requests that the Board chooses to take action on shall be placed on an agenda for a subsequent meeting.

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