BOARD MEETINGS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED (LOCAL)

Limit on Participation

Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the open forum portion of the meeting designated for that purpose. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

Public Comment

At every meeting of the Board, including special-called meetings and committee of the whole workshops, the Board shall allot time to hear persons who desire to make public comment to the Board about posted agenda items prior to their consideration or action on the item. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall register to speak in advance as determined by administrative regulation. No presentation shall exceed three minutes.

Citizen Participation

At each regular meeting, the Board shall allot 30 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall register to speak in advance as determined by administrative regulation. Speakers shall provide their first and last name and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak. Those patrons who do not provide their first and last names shall not be allowed to speak.

No presentation shall exceed three minutes, and only the first 20 speakers who sign up or their designee shall be allowed to speak. If more than ten speakers sign up, the 30 minutes will be divided among the speakers. As a speaker's name is called, only one person may approach the podium microphone and address the Board. A registered speaker must personally make his or her presentation during the designated time. Any registered presenter who is absent from the meeting or attempts to allow another person to present for him or her shall forfeit the opportunity to address the Board at that meeting.

A member of the public who addresses the body through a translator shall be given no more than six minutes in order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to address the Board.

Board's Response

The Board shall allow public comment on Board business; however, the Board shall not resolve disputes nor answer questions. Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or respond to patrons regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. Trustees may, but are not required to, respond with discussion on posted agenda items at the time and in the order the agenda item is posted for consideration.

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Criticism, Complaints, and Concerns

The Board shall allow public discussion, praise, and criticism of the Board and Board business. The Board is the District's governing body, which can only act by a majority vote at a publicly posted meeting. Discussion may be of any District or Board act, omission, policy, procedure, program, service, or agenda item; however, this does not apply to public criticism that is otherwise prohibited by law, such as individuals.

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the person shall be referred to the appropriate policy (see list below) to seek resolution:

Employee complaints: DGBA

Student or parent complaints: FNG

Public complaints: GF

Disruption

It shall be the intent of the District and the expectations of the community to expect that all Board meetings be conducted in accordance with proper decorum and be civil, peaceful, and professional. The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any person continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer or his or her designee may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the person removed from the meeting. If decorum is not maintained by individuals or the general forum after warning, the presiding officer has the right to the Board in recess and/or cancel the remainder of the citizen comment of public forum.

Members of the news media and their equipment shall remain in a specific area in the Board room or Board meeting site. A person who ignores the request to remain in the area designated for news media representatives may be removed.

Public Hearings

The Board may hold a public hearing in which any interested person shall be allowed to present information on the topic of the hearing with a specified time allotment. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall register to speak in advance as determined by administrative regulation. No presentation shall exceed three minutes.

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