

## **School Board**

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

A goal of the District is to maintain open communication with the public and increase community participation in District activities, including Board meetings. Therefore, a portion of each regularly scheduled Board meeting will be reserved for citizen and community input.

During this "public comment" portion of the meeting, members of the public and District employees may make comments or ask questions of the Board, subject to reasonable constraints -- with the understanding that the Board and/or Administration may not have an answer or be able to respond at that time, but will do so soon thereafter, when appropriate.

Any individual or group that wishes to be placed on the Board meeting agenda should first contact the Board President or Superintendent at least a week before the meeting. Individuals and groups addressing the Board must be willing to limit the time required for their remarks as requested by the Board. The Board President or Superintendent reserve the right to determine whether to include an individual or group on the agenda.

Individuals appearing before the Board are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify himself or herself and be brief. Ordinarily, such comments will be limited to 3 minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when the person has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period of time, he or she may be allowed to speak for more than 3 minutes.
3. The Board President may deny a person the opportunity to speak for more than 3 minutes. The President may also deny such opportunity to a person who has previously addressed the Board on the same subject.
4. The Board President will have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in School Board policy.

Persons addressing the Board should at all times recognize that public business is being conducted and that the privilege to comment or ask questions of the Board includes the obligation to do so with civility and with proper respect for others present, including members of the Board, the Administration and staff. Comments or questions should be related to policy matters. Criticism or complaints directed personally at employees of the District or members of the Board are out of order during any open meeting. Such complaints about personnel will be considered, if at all, only in closed session.

The Board President or any member sitting in his or her stead has the right to determine procedural matters that may arise during any Board meeting and to enforce the provisions of this policy through appropriate directives.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board may be presented to the Board at any regularly scheduled Board meeting. Such materials may also be directed to the office of the Superintendent for distribution to the Board at the next available opportunity.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-6 and 10-16 (105 ILCS 5/10-6, and 5/10-16).

CROSS REF.: 270.07

Adopted: 12/13/00