

Book	Policy Manual
Section	DRAFT POLICIES FOR THE BOARD
Title	Copy of Copy of Copy of PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
Code	po0167.3
Status	
Adopted	March 21, 2006
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0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on Corporation matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and publish procedures to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the procedures 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 Provided, however, that public participation may be prohibited at any meeting that must be conducted remotely or virtually due to an emergency declared by Federal, State, or local officials.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- G. The presiding officer may:
 1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person ~~does not observe reasonable decorum~~ behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's behavior interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 5. 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;
 6. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

- H. The portion of the meeting during which participation of the public is invited shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board.
- I. Digital, audio or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
 2. No interviews are conducted during the Board meeting.
 3. No commentary is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience.

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Legal	I.C. 20-26-4-3 Notice of meetings to Board members
	I.C. 5-14-1.5 Open Door Law notice to the public and news media of regular, emergency and special meetings