

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, the Board will give the public an opportunity to address the Board at two visitors' portions of their regular business meetings. There will be a limit of one question at a time for each visitor. The number of questions can be limited at the discretion of the President. Furthermore, time limits may be set by the Board, if necessary.

Presentation should be as brief as possible. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than three minutes. Speakers may comment on any matter related to district business; or any agenda item].

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.

All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the President and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other district officials only upon the approval of the President. Board members and the Superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy.

Ref: *Matter of Martin*, 32 EDR 381 (1992)
Appeal of Wittenben, 31 EDR 375 (1992)
Matter of Kramer, 72 EDR 114 (1951)
NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government,
OML-AO-#2696 (Jan. 8, 1997) and OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997)

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