

## 1.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The 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. A copy of the Board of Education agenda will be provided for visitors attending regular sessions of the Board. In order to permit the orderly expression of concerns, the Board shall provide a period for public participation to be governed by the following guidelines.

The President of the Board will recognize persons requesting to be heard. Members of the audience granted time to speak may do so following the introduction of the public participation portion of the agenda by the President of the Board and then recognition to address the Board.

Persons or delegates desiring to be heard before the Board of Education should notify the Superintendent's office no later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting and provide the following information:

- Name and address
- Group affiliation, if applicable
- Topic for discussion
- School personnel contacted
- Action desired by Board

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Any person wishing to be heard by the Board should first discuss the matter with the appropriate person on the Superintendent's administrative staff and with the Superintendent;
- B. Any group appearing before the Board shall select a spokesperson to address the Board. Other members of the group shall not address the Board except with the permission of the presiding officer;
- C. A speaker must be recognized by the presiding officer and shall state his/her name, address, and group affiliation, if any;
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes. At the discretion of the presiding officer, more or less time, per person, may be allocated;
- E. All presentations must be done in an orderly fashion and must not impede the meeting either before, during, or after the presentation;
- F. At the discretion of the presiding officer, a person may be permitted to speak more than once on the same topic at the same meeting;

- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members or administrators, individually;
- H. Board members may ask the speaker questions or make comments in order to clarify the discussion;
- I. Public statements on work session topics will not be taken.
- J. The presiding officer may:
  - 1. Interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, repetitive, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
  - 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; and/or
  - 5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

The portion of the meeting during which public participation is permitted shall not exceed fifteen minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the Board.