



Book	Policy Manual
Section	900 Community
Title	Public Participation in Board Meetings
Code	903
Status	First Reading
Adopted	October 4, 1995
Last Reviewed	November 15, 2021

### **Purpose**

The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the district and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

### **Authority**

The Board adopts this policy to govern public participation in open Board meetings.

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of ~~public~~<sup>public</sup> comment, the Board will provide ~~a period an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board~~ for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action, or deliberation which are before the Board prior to official action of the Board. ~~public participation and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings.~~

When an item is added to the agenda after the public comment period has ended, the Board shall offer a further public comment opportunity limited to the added item.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The presiding officer at each ~~open public~~ Board meeting will follow Board policy ~~the rules of the Board~~ for conduct of ~~open public~~ meetings.

### **Guidelines**

~~in accordance with this policy and Policy 006.~~  
~~The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:~~

1. ~~Public~~<sup>Public</sup> participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the Procedures of this Board.[1]

All persons wishing to participate in an ~~open public~~ Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary ~~Director of Finance and Support Service~~ in advance of the meeting and include the name and address of the participant, group affiliation if appropriate, and topic to be addressed.

Communications submitted anonymously (that is, without bona fide signature) to individual Board members or to the Board as a whole, will be deemed unacceptable.

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name and group affiliation, if applicable.

A time limit may be set by the President prior to the individuals addressing the Board.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members, the Superintendent, or other district managerial, instructional, or support persons individually.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Call 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.
4. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when the person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.

Any electronic recording devices and/or cameras larger than a typical smartphone will be permitted at meetings only through special permission of the Superintendent at least four (4) days prior to the meeting of their intended use.

No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available ~~distributed~~ to the press and public at the meetings.