



Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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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 School Corporation matters.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting shall administer the established procedures of the Board for conducting oral public comment. These procedural rules for oral public comment at Board meetings are reasonable rules to maintain order at the meeting, allow the Board to operate without disruptive behavior, and permit the Board to operate in an efficient manner so the business of the Board can be conducted and completed timely.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business before the Board takes official action on any issue of stance. 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. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting and indicate the agenda item(s) on which the attendee(s) desire to speak. Registration will close five (5) minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting.
- C. Participants shall be recognized by the presiding officer and shall be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, and address, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic.
- F. No participant may pass their time to another participant.
- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- H. The presiding officer may:
 1. prohibit public comments which are 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 behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a person who is willfully disruptive or 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.
- I. The portion of the meeting during which oral public comment is held shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board.

Revised 12/8/20
Revised 9/13/22
Revised 10/17/23

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Legal

I.C. 5-14-1.5 Open Door Law notice to the public and news media of regular, emergency and special meetings
I.C. 20-26-4-3 Notice of meetings to Board members
Grow v. Bartholomew Cons. Sch. Corp., 22-FC-124 (PAC Opinion Oct. 18, 2022)