

SCHOOL BOARD

2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

The Board of Education welcomes attendance by members of the public and the school staff at its meetings. It also wishes to encourage the expression of opinion on matters under consideration by the Board.

For a maximum of 60 minutes during each regular and special open meeting of the Board, any person may comment to or ask questions of the Board (*public participation*), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. The time limit for public participation at a meeting may be extended upon the majority vote of the Board members at the regular or special meeting. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President. This includes following the directives of the Board President to maintain order and decorum for all. After being recognized, the member of the public will be asked to make his/her comments from the podium.
2. Use a sign-in sheet, if requested.
3. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation comments shall be limited to five minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period of time, the Board President may allow a person to speak for more than five minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
4. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board President's authority to:
 - a. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak; and/or
 - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
5. It is not a proper avenue to address specific student or employee matters, especially those matters on appeal to the Board. Comments about the actions or statements of individual staff members are not appropriate for public comments and should be referred to the Superintendent or processed through the established chain of command and/or handled in closed session.
6. Speakers are requested to provide 10 copies of their written testimony for distribution to Board members, administration, and the board secretary.
7. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the School Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: June 28, 2022

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