

Temporary Public Participation Changes for Virtual BOE Meetings

Adopted 4/13/2020

Revised current bylaw for virtual meetings. Additions are in bold, omissions are summarized in brackets.

0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide two periods for public participation at public meetings of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings and in Board committee meetings. The rules shall be administered and enforced by the presiding officer of the meeting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted at a time as indicated on the meeting agenda and as determined by the presiding officer.
- B. Anyone with concerns related to the operation of the schools or to matters within the authority of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- D. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 - 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant'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 of the orderly conduct of the meeting.

GENERAL RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. **When requested by the presiding Chair, individuals will virtually raise their hands in the online meeting by clicking on the appropriate button to indicate that they have something to say during the public participation period. If necessary, the Chair will divide the allotted time equally to ensure all who wish to speak have the opportunity. As always, the total time may be extended at the Chair's discretion.**
- B. Individuals will be recognized by the Board President or presiding Chair when it is their opportunity to address the Board **and will be unmuted to speak for their allotted time and muted when that time concludes.**
- C. **Each speaker will be asked to announce his/her name and topic, state their address, and say whether they want a personal response before beginning to speak.**
- D. One speaker may not yield his/her time to another. No person may speak more than once at either commentary opportunity. No person may speak more than once on the same subject during a single meeting.

[omitted comment card provision]

[omitted large group provision]

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- E. Members of the Board and district employees will not answer questions or comments during public participation. [omitted comment card reference].
- F. Citizens with concerns or complaints about school employees should use the protocol outlined in board policy 9130: Citizen Complaints. Citizens are encouraged to utilize established channels before bringing the matter to the School Board. Employees have contractual and legal rights and may request a closed meeting if complaints reach the Board level.
- G. Speakers addressing the board shall take into consideration rules of common courtesy. Speakers who make attacks of a personal nature and/or who do not abide by rules of common courtesy will be reminded of such rules by the Board President or presiding chair. **Such individuals may be muted and/or excluded from the virtual meeting if their behavior is disruptive or interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.** [omitted reference to physical removal from meeting for disorderly conduct]
- H. Audio or video recordings are permitted.

[omitted references to recording conditions]

First Public Commentary

The first public commentary, scheduled near the beginning of all Board meetings, workshops, and committee meetings, shall be limited to an accumulated time of thirty (30) minutes. Time may be extended at the discretion of the Board President or presiding chair.

The total number of speakers and time to speak shall be determined by participants raising their hands in the virtual meeting when requested to do so.

Individual speakers will be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes, however, the time may be reduced if a large number of persons wishes to address the Board. In these instances, the number of speakers will be divided equally into the thirty (30)-minute time limit. For example, if ten (10) persons wish to address the Board, each individual will be given three (3) minutes.

Second Public Commentary

The second opportunity for public commentary, scheduled near the end of all Board meetings, shall be limited to an accumulated time of fifteen (15) minutes. Time may be extended at the discretion of the Board President or presiding chair.

The total number of speakers and time to speak shall be determined by participants raising their hands in the virtual meeting when requested to do so.

Individuals will be allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes, however, the time may be reduced if a large number of persons wishes to address the Board. In these instances, the number of speakers will be divided equally into the fifteen (15)-minute time limit. For example, if fifteen (15) persons wish to address the Board, each individual will be given one minute.