

POLICY: BDDH
Approved: October 26, 1970
Reviewed: December 19, 1989
Revised: October 1, 2001
Revised: January, 2003

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The Board, as a representative body of the District, wishes to provide an avenue for any citizen to express his/her interest in and concerns for the school. Accordingly, the public is cordially invited to attend any of the regular or special sessions of the Board, excepting Executive Sessions.

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the school and, therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.

Anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as an individual or as a member of a group, is encouraged to inform the Administrator or the Board President of his/her desire to do so and of the topic to be discussed so that such remarks can be incorporated into the meeting agenda. This must be done by 10:00 a.m. on the Thursday preceding a Board Meeting.

Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the District, it will include opportunities for appearances or to receive public comment on agenda items.

If citizens wish to address the Board of Education on an agenda item, they should notify the Board of Education as follows: On a card available in the Board room, any individual desiring to speak shall give his/her name, address, the group (if any) that he/she represents, and the topic to be addressed. Cards need to be completed and handed to the Board President before the start of the meeting. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted, each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes. The President reserves the right to limit the number of individuals or groups who will be recognized to speak on one particular issue. The President also reserves the right to determine the order in which individuals may speak.

Comments and questions at a regular meeting may deal with any topic related to the Board's agenda. Comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting. Questions asked by the public shall, when possible, be answered immediately by the Board or Administration. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Board or Administration for consideration and later response.

In public session, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor complaints against any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

Members of the public will not be recognized by the President as the Board conducts its official business except when the Board schedules, in advance, an interim public discussion period on a particular agenda item.

The Board vests in its President the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established in this policy.

The press shall be given reasonable time at the end of a regular Board meeting to ask questions.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wis. Statutes Chapter 19, Subchapter IV
Sections 19.81, 19.83, 19.85

CROSS REFERENCE: BDC, Executive Sessions