

POLICY

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXPRESSION AT MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board shall be conducted in public, and the public has the right to attend all such meetings. Public expression at such meetings shall be encouraged and a specific portion of the agenda shall provide for this privilege of the floor. At its discretion, the Board may invite visitors to its meetings to participate in the Board's discussion of matters on the agenda.

The Board of Education reserves the right to enter into executive session as specified in Policy #1730.

Concerns From the Public

Community members who wish to bring concerns to the Board of Education are encouraged to do so at Board meetings and are asked to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

When possible, community members are asked, in advance of the Board meeting, to advise either the Superintendent of Schools or the Board president of their proposed Board appearance and concerns to be raised.

When visitors attend a Board meeting and where practical, these visitors will identify themselves. In cases where visitors wish to be heard, the president of the Board shall determine whether to grant the request and may impose a time limit on the speaker. In all cases, persons addressing the Board shall identify themselves by name and shall, when requested, state their home addresses.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual District personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual District personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.

The Board of Education, following the presentation, shall determine and advise how the issue may best be addressed (e.g. placing issue on a Board agenda, directing the person(s) to appropriate school officials).

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action. Persons wishing to have matters included on the agenda shall contact the Superintendent. Generally speaking, Board members will not immediately respond to questions and comments from the public but will refer to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

The President is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion, the suitability of the time for such a presentation, and the appropriateness of the subject being presented, as outlined in this policy and applicable provisions of law and regulation, and subject to the Board's parliamentary procedures.

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The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy. The President shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Adopted: 1/27/97

Revised and Adopted: 3/14/19