

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS AND VIDEOTAPING

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. In order to allow proper planning of the Board meeting and permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. An individual must notify the Board secretary at least one day before the Board meeting that the individual wishes to present comment at the Board meeting.
2. Each individual who wishes to comment at the Board meeting must personally notify the Board secretary. Information about other persons will not be accepted.
3. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer at the Board meeting.
4.
 - a. Each participant shall be limited to one presentation of five minutes. This applies to both general comment and speaking on agenda items.
 - b. A time clock may be used for each participant's presentation. The time clock will run continually without comment(s) from Board members or from the Superintendent and/or staff. Board members or the superintendent and/or staff may respond or comment upon completion of public comment.
 - c. A participant cannot cede or transfer his/her time, or any part of his/her time, to another individual.
5. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer.
6. The presiding officer and his or her designee may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive or obscene;
 - b. Request an individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - c. 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; and
 - d. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient conduct of the Board business.

Taping of Board Meetings by Public

In order to preserve orderly conduct of the Board meeting and prevent disruption the following guidelines shall be observed for those who wish to record Board meetings:

In order to preserve orderly conduct of the Board meeting and prevent disruption the following guidelines shall be observed for those who wish to record Board meetings:

- A. No recorder, camera, or mobile phone, may be plugged in to use the electricity, lighting or utilities of the school or District.
- B. No recorder may be used to harass or intimidate anyone present at a Board meeting.
- C. The recording of Board meetings shall not physically interfere with the Board's business or any citizen's access to the proceedings.
- D. Any persons who violates these guidelines maybe barred from recording a Board meeting.

Taping of Board Meetings by the Board

The Board of Education shall videotape the Caucus and Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting of the Board. Videotaping shall include the open session of the Board Meeting and shall include public comments. The District shall broadcast videotapes of the Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting to the extent consistent with the considerations in paragraph 6(a), above, confidentiality required by law, and the limitations in the Department of Education Accountability Regulations. The Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting sections, or portions of meetings which are permitted by law to be closed to the public shall not be videotaped.

This Policy shall supersede any conflicting Board Policy, rule or public statement.

Date:

Legal References

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Open Public Meetings Act

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6 Board Meetings

N.J.S.A. 18A: 11-1 General powers and duties

Maurice River Twp. Bd. Of Educ. v. Maurice River Twp. Teachers Ass'n,
193 N.J. Super. 488 (App. Div. 1984)

Taurus v. Borough of Pine Hill, 189 N.J. 497 (2007)

Date: February 19, 2015