

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board recognizes the value to school governance 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 permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide for public participation at those public meetings of the Board during which official action may be taken.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting during which public participation occurs shall be responsible for implementing this policy.

When such presiding officer's ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those board members present and voting.

The Board shall receive the benefit of public participation in conformance with the following rules:

1. The presiding officer shall determine if a public participant's comments would be more beneficial to the Board during the designated period at the beginning of the meeting or immediately prior to Board discussion of a particular agenda item.
2. Each public participant shall be limited to five minutes of aggregate speaking time per meeting, unless the presiding officer determines that a shorter or longer duration is warranted because of special circumstances. If a public participant wishes to provide input on multiple topics or agenda items, such comments will be more beneficial to the Board during the designated period at the beginning of the meeting.
3. All statements and questions shall be directed to the Board. Public participants are not to mention students and staff members by name.
4. Tape or video recordings are permitted, providing the person operating the recorders has received approval from the presiding officer prior to the Board meeting and agrees to the following conditions:
  - A. no obstructions are created between the Board and the audience;
  - B. no interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session and
  - C. no commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board members or members of the audience while the Board is in session.
5. The presiding officer may:
  - A. interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is abusive, obscene, irrelevant to school board issues or too lengthy;
  - B. order any individual to leave the meeting who fails to observe reasonable decorum;
  - C. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person whose conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting and
  - D. call for recess of adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum prevents the orderly conduct of the meeting.
6. The Superintendent is directed to develop a method of public distribution of this policy.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

(Re-approval date: July 9, 2015)