



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Volume 34, No. 1 - October 2021
Title	Revised Bylaw - Vol. 34, No. 1 - October 2021 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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0167.3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

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

[OPTIONAL]

[☒] Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Superintendent no later than ~~Seven~~ (~~7~~) days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. (☒) name and address of the participant;
- B. (☒) group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. (☒) topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be ~~approved~~ reviewed by (☐) the Board President (☒) the Superintendent and the Board President (☐) the Superintendent or the Board President [END OF OPTION] and shall be placed on the agenda only if approved by (☐) the Board President (☒) the Superintendent and the Board President (☐) the Superintendent or the Board President [END OF OPTIONS]. The amount of time for agenda items for any person or group who have been approved for a presentation on the Board agenda shall be limited to three ~~three~~ (~~3~~) minutes.

[END OF OPTION]

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board may provide a period for public participation (☒) at every regular meeting of the Board (☐) ~~at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken~~ [END OF OPTION] and publish procedures to govern such participation in Board meetings. ~~(☐) Public comment is limited to items on the Board's agenda.~~ [END OF OPTION]

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the procedures of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. (**X**) Public participation shall be permitted (**X**) as indicated on the order of business. ~~(**X**) before the Board takes official action on any issue of substance.~~ (**X**) at the discretion of the presiding officer. **[END OF OPTION]**(**X**)
Provided, however, that public participation may be prohibited at any meeting that must be conducted remotely or virtually due to an emergency declared by Federal, State or local officials. **[END OF OPTION]**
- B. (**X**) Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. (**X**) Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- D. (**X**) Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer (**X**) and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, (**X**) address, (**X**) group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
[END OF OPTIONS]
- E. (**X**) Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (**3**) minutes duration.
- F. (**X**) No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- G. (**X**) All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- H. (**X**) The presiding officer may:
1. (**X**) prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 2. (**X**) interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 3. (**X**) request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 4. (**X**) request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's behavior interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 5. (**X**) 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;
 6. (**X**) waive these rules. (**X**) with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business. **[END OF OPTION]**
- I. (**X**) The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (**30**) ~~=~~ unless extended by a vote of the Board.
- J. ~~(**X**) Digital, audio or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:~~
1. ~~No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.~~
 2. ~~No interviews are conducted during the Board meeting.~~
 3. ~~No commentary is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience.~~

Legal

I.C. 5-14-1.5 Open Door Law notice to the public and news media of regular, emergency and special meetings

I.C. 20-26-4-3 Notice of meetings to Board members