

PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS

All citizens, including delegations or individuals, have the right, and are encouraged, to attend meetings of the Board and to listen to and observe its deliberations. In the interest of orderly conduct of Board meetings, spontaneous discussions from the floor will be discouraged. The individual dignity of Board members and School District employees will be respected. Accordingly, neither Board members nor employees will be subjected to abuse through these proceedings.

Citizens are requested to seek resolution of specific problems at the school site or most appropriate administrative level. Persons are encouraged to write to the Board or the Superintendent with general questions, concerns, suggestions or to obtain information about the District. Each person will receive a response to their written correspondence.

Recognizing its responsibility for proper governance of the schools, as well as open lines of communication along with the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board will schedule one or more periods during each regular and special meeting for public comment.

Individuals who wish to speak at a Board meeting will be provided with a public comment sign-up sheet. The President of the Board will review the guidelines for Public Comment prior to inviting members of the public to approach the podium. Delegations who wish to address the Board are encouraged to select a representative spokesperson. People will speak in the order in which they have signed up to speak.

The Public Comment period will be scheduled for 30 minutes; however, a quorum of the Board may vote to extend the Public Comment period if necessary. Any person who has signed up to speak and is unable to do so during this period may be permitted to speak later in the agenda immediately prior to adjournment. Each speaker during the Public Comment section of a Board meeting may be limited to three minutes. People who are unable to attend meetings in person may email the Board Clerk twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting and have their comments read during the Public Comment portion of the agenda after those in attendance have spoken. All stipulations regarding public comments will apply to email comments.

All persons who speak at Board meetings will comply with all provisions of this policy. School Board policies, state law and federal law have established separate and distinct procedures and forums for collective bargaining issues, and for the resolution of employee grievances, employee complaints against individual employees, student suspensions and appeals, political campaigns, and litigations. To avoid the circumvention of those separate proceedings and ensure fairness to all parties concerned, no person will be allowed to speak regarding the following:

- . a) An issue subject to collective bargaining;

- b) An issue in a pending lawsuit, complaint, or investigation filed with an outside agency, where the School District, employee(s) or the Board is party;
- c) Pending employee complaint or grievance filed with the School District or an outside agency;
- . d) Complaint against individual employee(s) or commendation of individual employees;
- . e) Employee disciplinary action, suspension, or termination;
- . f) Student suspension or appeal which may ultimately reach the Board of Education; or
- . g) Students, other than the minor child(ren) of the speaker, per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Additionally, prior to elections no person who has officially announced or filed as a candidate for public office may speak during the public comment sessions regarding their candidacy or the election.

The Board President will remind speakers whose presentations are inconsistent with this policy of the rules for public comment. For speakers who continue to violate this policy, the Board President or designee will interrupt and terminate any presentation that is not in accordance with any of these criteria.

Members of the public who are unable to speak during public comment periods may submit their comments to the Board in writing to the following address: 21 Wynkoop Place Kingston, NY 12401. Complaints from the public are addressed in Board policy 1400.

The Board President, or their designee, is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting. Board members may interrupt a speaker if they notice a breach of the policy with a “point of order”, and the Board President, or their designee will rule on the matter. All individuals delivering public comments and observers must conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner and are expected to abide by the rules for Public Comment on School Property as set forth in the District’s Code of Conduct, Board policy 5300.

Board members will not respond to the speaker's comments. The Superintendent or the Board of Education President will determine if an immediate response to the speaker's comments is advisable.

The Board of Education reserves the right to enter executive session as specified in Policy ##2330 Executive Sessions.

Revised and Adopted: 03/07/07 Revised and Renumbered June 3, 2009
Revised – First Reading March 16, 2022 Adoption: 6, 2022

Refer also to Policy #2330 -- Executive Sessions
#5300 – Code of Conduct

FOR POSTER:

Please note that state and federal privacy laws and collective bargaining agreements prevent us from discussing certain topics in this venue. Therefore, no person will be allowed to speak regarding the following:

- Contract negotiations
- Pending Lawsuit (s)
- Pending Grievance(s)
- Employee complaint(s) filed with the School District or an outside agency
- Complaint(s) against individual employee(s)
- Employee disciplinary action, suspension, or termination;
- Student suspension or appeal which may ultimately reach the Board of Education
- Students, other than the minor child(ren) of the speaker, per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Additionally, prior to elections no person who has officially announced or filed as a candidate for public office may speak during the public comment sessions regarding their candidacy or the election.

Statement for the Board President to Read

Good Evening All:

We are about to enter the portion of the meeting where we welcome public comments.

Although state law does not require that we hold a public comment period, we feel it is crucial that we hear from our community about their concerns. The Board is here to listen. Because we do take your concerns seriously, we want to have time to process and research issues. Your concerns and questions may be addressed at a future meeting of the Board or you may be contacted by the appropriate staff member or administrator.

If you have prepared a written statement and do not have the opportunity to present it, please leave it with the Clerk of the Board who will see that all trustees receive it.

Please note that state and federal privacy laws and collective bargaining agreements prevent us from discussing certain topics in this venue. The guidelines are posted on the Board room wall.

Thank you for your adherence to the rules and your interest in the continuous improvement of our District.