

## **PUBLIC EXPRESSION 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 shall be discouraged. The individual dignity of Board members and School District employees shall be respected. Accordingly, neither Board members nor employees shall 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 his or her 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 shall schedule one or more periods during each regular and special meeting for public participation.

Individuals who wish to speak at a Board meeting are encouraged to complete a public participation sign-up sheet before the Board meeting convenes. Delegations who wish to address the Board are encouraged to select a representative spokesperson. Persons will speak in the order in which they have signed up to speak. At the discretion of the Board President the public participation period may be limited to thirty (30) minutes, however, any person who has signed up to speak and is unable to do so during this thirty-minute period may be permitted to speak later in the agenda immediately prior to adjournment, at the discretion of the Board President. Each speaker during the public participation section of Board meetings may be limited to two minutes.

All persons who speak at Board meetings shall meet 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, pupil suspensions and appeals, political campaigns, and litigations. To avoid 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;

(Continued)

### **PUBLIC EXPRESSION AT MEETINGS (Cont'd.)**

- c) A pending grievance;
- d) Pending employee complaint filed with the School District or an outside agency;
- e) Complaint against individual employee(s);
- f) Employee disciplinary action, suspension or termination;
- g) Pupil suspension or appeal which may ultimately reach the Board of Education; or
- h) Pupils, 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 publicly announced or filed as a candidate for public office may speak during the public participation sessions regarding his/her candidacy or the election. The Board President or designee may interrupt and terminate any presentation that is not in accordance with any of these criteria.

The Board President, or his/her designee, 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 appropriateness of the subject being presented and suitability of the time for such a presentation. The Board President, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers who shall properly identify themselves, for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to set time limits. The Board as a whole, if desired, shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings, by motion, second and a vote in accordance with established parliamentary procedure.

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

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

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #2330 -- Executive Sessions

**Revised and Adopted: 03/07/07**  
**Revised and Renumbered June 3, 2009**