

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the board shall be open to the public. All actions of the board shall be taken openly and the deliberations leading to board action shall likewise be conducted openly. The public is invited to attend board meetings and will be given limited time to voice opinions or problems.

The board reserves the right to meet in executive session as otherwise provided in these policies (Policy BC).

In order to establish procedures for persons or groups wishing to present requests, problems or complaints at meetings of the board of education, the board shall abide by the following rules:

a) Individuals or groups wishing to appear before the board shall normally contact the superintendent of schools in advance of the meeting, informing him of the nature of the problems. If the problem cannot be satisfactorily solved by the superintendent, he shall, with the consent of the president of the board, assign a time on the agenda for the individual or group. A group at this time shall designate its spokesperson. It is recommended that such requests for board audience be made at least five days before the board meeting in order that information might be obtained regarding the problem.

b) If a group or individual fails to make an advance appointment to appear before the board, there shall be a specific allowance as an item on the agenda for such person or group to be heard.

c) When a person or group appears at a board meeting after the time set for visitors to be heard, it shall be the practice to leave the appearance until the end of the meeting. If, at the conclusion of all agenda items, the board feels there is time for the group to be heard, such may be done. If there does not seem to be time, the individual or group may be advised to contact the superintendent about being placed on a future agenda.

d) The individual requesting to speak at the meeting or the spokesperson of such group shall be recognized at the meeting by the presiding officer of the meeting and will be asked to come forward and give his name, address and what group, if any, he represents. He shall then be asked to state the position he is taking on the issue before the board, or to state his problem or complaint.

e) The board will hear all persons within the limits of good parliamentary and business procedure. The board will not tolerate disruptive, disrespectful or abusive behavior, nor will it permit visitor participation in matters irrelevant to the business at hand. Visitors and members of the audience may participate in the business at hand only at the invitation of the board.

f) Personalities are not to be injected. Anyone violating this rule will be denied the floor.

g) Each speaker is limited to three minutes. A speaker will not be recognized for a second time unless time remains after all have been heard.

h) It is requested that no one read lengthy statements. Written material is to be circulated among board members.

(Cf: BC, BCBK)

(See also KCA)