

## **School Board**

### **Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

During each regular and special open meeting of the Board, any person may make comments to or ask questions of the School Board (public participation) regarding agenda or non-agenda items related to the District, subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy. It shall be the Board's practice not to directly engage in discussion or ask or answer questions during public comment: responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*. If members of the public violate this policy and it requires the Board to take time to address such non-compliance, including the Board calling a recess, that time will be considered part of the total duration for public comment.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Sign in on the designated public comment form, which requests each speaker to provide their name, address, topic, and whether the individual is a resident of the District. Individuals that provide they are residents will be permitted to speak before individuals that do not identify themselves as residents.
2. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President or designee.
3. Identify oneself and be brief. Each person may address the Board for up to three minutes.
4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8.30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*. Specifically, individuals should display mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct. Individuals shall not:
  - a) Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, Board member, or any other person.
  - b) Use vulgar or obscene language.
  - c) Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with a Board meeting (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
  - d) Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a Board meeting.
  - e) Violate other District policies or regulations, a directive from an authorized security officer, or a District employee or Board member.

The Board President shall have authority to:

1. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak.
2. Limit the duration of public comment on any one subject to 20 minutes. If several individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
3. Extend the three-minute time limit for individual speakers.

4. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board in the next regular Board packet.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the  
Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Approved by Board Action 08/11/2022