

**Public Comments at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

The Board, as the representative body of the District, wishes to provide an avenue for citizens to express their interest in the schools. Accordingly, at each regular and special open meeting, members of the public and District employees may comment or ask questions of the Board.

Individuals addressing the Board shall be guided and constrained by the following conditions:

- Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the District, and therefore are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.
- During the time when the Board is holding official meetings, only those persons recognized by the presiding officer shall be permitted to participate in the discussion. Any individual not so recognized is out of order.
- Each speaker shall have an opportunity to speak for three minutes. If, however, a large number of speakers wish to be heard, the presiding officer may shorten this time allotment. A majority of the Board members present at any meeting may waive the three-minute time allotment for a speaker.
- Since all open meetings of the Board are made a matter of public record, each speaker, when recognized by the presiding officer, should give his or her name, address or school if a student, and announce the general subject, before presenting views. It is strongly encouraged that for further review a copy of the speaker's remarks be provided to the Board.
- It shall be in order for the members of the Board or the Superintendent to question the speaker or to make comments regarding the individual's statement.
- Speakers are expected to conduct themselves with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8.30
- To minimize the possibility of the Board making ill advised, illegal, or improper rulings due to hasty action in the absence of adequate information and study, proposals or requests that are not listed as items on the agenda will be referred to the Superintendent for recommendation to the Board. The Superintendent shall communicate the Board's action, if any, to those citizens following the next scheduled Board meeting.
- Petitions or written correspondence to the Board may be presented to the Board during the time for Public Comments at meetings.

The presiding officer shall determine procedural matters regarding public comments not otherwise defined in this policy.

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LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/2.06.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.  
CROSS REF.: 2.220, 8.10, 8.30

Adopted: September 20, 1972  
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