

School Board

Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

During each regular and special open meeting of the Board, the members of the public and District employees may comment to or ask questions of the Board, subject to reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy *3:30 Chain of Command*.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, employees, parents, students, and other members of the public appearing before the Board must abide by the following:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President. This includes following the directives of the Board President to maintain order and decorum for all.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Such comments shall be limited to 3 minutes. In unusual circumstances when a person has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period of time, such person may be allowed to speak for more than 3 minutes but for not more than 6 minutes as determined by the Board President. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
3. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board President's authority to:
 - a. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak; and/or
 - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility towards Board members, staff members, and any other person in attendance at the meeting, refrain from engaging in any threatening, harassing, disruptive, or other behavior which impeded the orderly and productive conduct of the meeting, refrain from the use of vulgar or obscene language, and otherwise abide by Board policy, 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board.

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

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

Reviewed: October 20, 2003; January 18, 2011; October 15, 2013, November 6, 2017,
June 20, 2022

Approved: November 17, 2003

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