

By-Laws

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education recognizes and values the importance of maintaining an open line of communication with the community. An open line of communication should result in a positive relationship between the Board and the community.

The Board of Education is required to meet on a regular basis in order to do its business, and meet its statutory obligations. The Board of Education is required to conduct its business in public in compliance with the New York State Open Meetings Law. The meeting of the Board of Education is therefore a meeting in public, but not a meeting of the public. In certain circumstances, in compliance with statute, the Board of Education is required to have public hearings in which the public is invited to participate in certain parts of the meeting according to prescribed guidelines.

Persons interested in being placed on the official Board of Education agenda for the purpose of presenting to the Board of Education on a school related matter, that is of interest to the Board of Education as the District's policy making body, should submit a written request to the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting. Said request should contain the name and address of the person or group seeking to address the Board, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed. The President of the Board of Education shall have the discretion to limit the time for each presentation as needs dictate. Any group that desires to address the Board of Education is required to designate one representative or spokesperson. No other person in the group will be recognized to address the Board of Education, except as otherwise determined by the Board President.

In order to provide the public with the opportunity to be active participants with the Board of Education, there shall be two scheduled periods on each Board agenda for public remarks and/or comments. The first session will be for public remarks and/or comments regarding items on the meeting agenda. The second session will be at the end of the Board meeting, prior to a called executive session, or after an executive session if so called by the President of the Board of Education. The second session shall be for general public comments and shall not be restricted to agenda items per se.

Public remarks and/or comments should be directed through the President of the Board of Education. Only speakers recognized by the President of the Board shall be allowed to speak. The Board President, Board members, and/or the Superintendent of Schools may or may not respond to comments or questions presented by the public.

Personal attacks by anyone addressing the Board of Education are unacceptable. Persistence in any such remark by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the Board of Education.

Individual remarks and/or comments shall be restricted to three minutes each. The President of the Board shall maintain the right and privilege of restricting individual time allocations.

The total time for public remarks and/or comments shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Adopted: 3/6/12