

## 0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

~~The Board is committed to hearing of Education recognizes the value of public commentscomment on educational issues relating to the schools and school district. Public comment, however, must not inhibit the Board's primary responsibility to conduct the business of the school district in public meetings. Therefore, the Board establishes procedures for public comment to inform the Board prior to action, to conduct business efficiently, and to provide for other public communications.~~

~~In order to allowimportance of allowing members of the public to comment in a fair and orderly mannerexpress themselves on school matters of community interest, the Board provides two periods of public comment at every regularly scheduled meeting. Public participation shall be managed at the discretion of the presiding officer.~~

~~Opportunity for participation is extended to residents of this district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or school district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of this district. When the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board, the participant shall be encouraged to use such method. It is anticipated that there may be issues on the agenda in which the public may have specific interest or relating to which specific public input may usefully inform Board action. Upon majority vote, the Board shall allow such public participation according to the rules set forth below.~~

~~Grievances or complaints that have not previously been considered through administrative channels shall be referred to the proper channels.~~

~~± In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall set aside a portion of every Board meeting, the length of the portion to be determined by the Board, for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district.~~

~~The presiding officer will start each public comment period with a statement on the purpose of public comment and the rules governing it. Public participation during Hearings of Individuals and Delegations is shall be governed by the following rules:~~

~~2.1. The presiding officer will start each public comment period with a statement on the purpose of public comment and the rules governing it.~~

~~A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable;~~

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1. Any person desiring to address the Board of Education at any regular meeting of the Board may speak at either of the two periods designated on the agenda for Hearings of Individuals and Delegations.

a. Agenda Items Only: In order to address the Board during the first public comment period, members of the public must register sign in prior to the start of the meeting by completing the form provided at the back of the meeting room. The presiding officer will call registrants signed-in participants forward at the appropriate time.

b. Non-Agenda/Other Items: In order to address the Board during the second public comment period, members of the public must indicate their interest in speaking by raising their hands and awaiting recognition by the presiding officer, who will indicate the appropriate moment to come forward.

2. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his or her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

3. Each statement made by a participant is limited to three (3) minutes, although the presiding officer shall retain discretion with regard to time allotment. Participants are encouraged to provide written copies of their statements or additional information to the Board secretary for distribution to the Board.

4. The first public comment period may be limited to one-half hour or a longer time period that a majority of the Board, including the presiding officer, judges as sufficient for the presentation of public comments. In exercising its judgment under this policy, the Board shall be mindful of the value of public comment being heard to the maximum reason able degree before Board action takes place. In setting a time limit, a Board majority may also empower the presiding officer to alter the order of speakers from the order in which they have signed up for the first public comment period, either for the purpose of hearing a diversity of topics or ensuring that speakers wishing to comment on Board action have the opportunity to do so before action takes place, as long as doing so is compatible with all perspectives being heard and is necessary for the effective conduct of the meeting. The second public comment period shall have no time limit other than the three-minute requirement of paragraph 4, unless a majority of the Board, including the presiding officer, votes to impose a time limit of one hour or more on the basis that doing so is necessary for the effective conduct of the meeting. It is understood that the presiding officer may shall alter the order of speakers in order to allow students or individuals with special needs, to speak first.

5. The second public comment period shall have no time limit other than the three-minute requirement of paragraph4, unless a majority of the Board, including the presiding officer, votes to impose a time limit of one hour or more on the basis that doing so is necessary for the effective conduct of the meeting.

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~~6.~~ No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

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~~7. (PICK OPTION 1, OR ONE OR MORE OPTONS FROM OPTIONS~~

~~(Option 1): Participants may not cede their time to others.~~

~~(Option 2): Only on participant may cede time to another participant on the same topic.~~

~~(Option 3): If a participant cedes time to another participant, that ceded time will be limited to two minutes.~~

~~7. (Option 4): If a participant wishes to cede their time to another participant, the ceding participant must be present when called in order to cede the time.~~

~~8. 8. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer; no and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant may address or question to another Board members or district staff individually. The Board will not answer questions or dialog with participants, except when member shall be redirected to the presiding officer wishes to clarify a specific point. who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member;~~

~~9. 9. The presiding officer may:~~

~~a. Interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy;~~

~~a.b. Interrupt, and/or warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or irrelevant may be defamatory;~~

~~b.c. Request any individual person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;~~

~~e.d. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;~~

~~d.e. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and~~

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e.f. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or ~~the efficient administration~~ to maintain an orderly operation of the Board's business Board meeting.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Cross Reference: 0164

Initial Adoption: January 12, 2009

First Reading: ~~December 15, 2008~~ July 15, 2019

Second Reading: ~~January 12, 2009~~ August 19, 2019

~~Adopted:~~ January 12, 2009 Latest Adoption:

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