

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board is committed to conducting its meetings in an orderly and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in an expeditious manner, that is respectful of the personal time commitments of Board members and other school personnel, and that allows for a fair and adequate opportunity for input to be considered, whether in Board meetings or through other available channels. Consequently, public input at Board meetings will be governed by the following principles:

1. Public input will normally be heard at regular meetings, although the Board reserves the right to dispense with public input at any given meeting. Public input will not be received at special meetings except upon a vote of the Board.
2. Persons wishing to address the Board must be present in person and sign a form prior to the opening of the meeting giving their names, addresses, and agenda topics of interest or other topic. Persons may not be added to this list after the meeting opens. Members of the public wishing to address the Board concerning non-agenda items shall register their intention and topic with the Superintendent's Office (740-687-7305) by 4:30 p.m. the day before the regular monthly meeting. Every attempt will be made to post Board meeting agendas on the district web site by Friday of the week before the meeting.
3. Public input will be scheduled at or near the beginning of each monthly meeting. The first part of the public input session will include speakers presenting about a specific item or items on the agenda for that meeting. Next, the Board President will recognize speakers wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda for that meeting who registered with the Superintendent's office. The Superintendent or Board President may waive the prior registration requirement. The second part of the public input session (non-agenda items) may be scheduled after the regular agenda of the Board is completed.
4. The purpose of the first public input session will be to receive brief statements from the public on matters currently before the Board for discussion. Questions may be submitted to the Board verbally or in writing. Statements and questions must be directed to the presiding officer and not to Board members or other school officials individually.
5. The public input sessions are not intended to serve as a forum for the discussion of specific issues, but rather as an opportunity for individual members of the public to express their questions and concerns directly to the Board. Board members and/or other school officials may make brief responses to questions for purposes of seeking clarification or providing basic information.

6. Each speaker is limited to three minutes in his/her presentation to the Board. In the interest of ensuring fairness and objectivity, this time shall not be extended for the benefit of any individual except upon a vote of the Board. If the Board votes for an extension of time, the same amount of additional time must also be offered to all other persons who have spoken or who are scheduled to speak.
7. The total amount of time for any public input session shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes in total, unless the Board has voted to extend speaking times for all individuals in accordance with this policy.
8. Speakers are not permitted to address matters relating to individual students or other matters made confidential by law.
9. Speakers are expected to observe the kind of respect, civility, and decorum that is appropriate for a public meeting and a positive example for our students. The presiding officer, or a majority of the Board by vote, may terminate any presentation which is deemed to be vulgar, profane, disruptive, frivolous, repetitive, or harassing in nature.

[Adoption date: March 11, 1999]

[Re-adoption date: December 15, 2005]

[Re-adoption date: June 19, 2012]

[Re-adoption date: September 25, 2012]

[Amendment date: October 23, 2012]

LEGAL REFS.:

ORC 121.22, 3313.20, 3313.47

Lowery v. Jefferson Co. Bd. of Educ., 586 F.3d 427 (2009).

CROSS REFS.:

BCE, Board Committees

BD, School Board Meetings

BDDC, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel