

PUBLIC BOARD HEARINGS

The Board of Education shall schedule public hearings in accordance with the law and on occasions when it wishes to gather information and seek opinions on important issues affecting the school district. The Board shall take no formal action at a public hearing.

The time and place of the hearings shall be designated in the notice of the hearing. All interested persons or their representatives shall have an opportunity to present facts, views, or arguments relative to ideas or proposals under consideration.

At the beginning of each hearing the Board may present information on the topic of the hearing. Speakers shall be required to give their name and address. Non-residents do not have the privilege of speaking at public hearings except when permission is granted by the chair.

Speakers at public meetings, generally, will be limited to three minutes for their presentation. However, this time limit may be adjusted by the chair if the size of the audience or the number of requests to speak is small and an increase in the time would not unduly extend the length of the hearing. Any adjustment in time shall apply to all speakers from the audience.

Any speaker who is out of order may be cautioned by the chair. If such remarks or behavior persists, the speaker's privilege to address the Board may be terminated.

Note: Policy added

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PUBLIC BOARD HEARINGS REGULATION

The following procedures for conducting public hearings have been established by the Board of Education:

1. An individual may register to attend a public hearing by calling the Superintendent of Schools' office by noon of the day of the hearing, as well as by registering at the hearing itself.
2. The chairperson will open the hearing with a statement that sets forth the following:
 - a. Purpose - summary of materials or presentation
 - b. Rules for the hearing
 - c. Time limit
 - d. Designation of secretary to receive written statements and other materials, exhibits, etc.
3. The chairperson will acknowledge and thank each speaker for participating. If necessary, individual Board members will be recognized by the chairperson to respond to questions or statements made by speakers.
4. The time limit per speaker will be stressed by the chair in the opening remarks. If a speaker ignores the time limit, the procedure shall be as follows:
 - a. The chairperson will interrupt and ask the speaker to "sum up."
 - b. If the signal is still ignored, the chairperson will interrupt again and ask the speaker to "submit a written statement."
 - c. The chairperson must continue interrupting until the speaker stops.
5. The chairperson will explain the steps that will be taken if the speaker starts to use abusive language:
 - a. The chairperson will interrupt and warn the speaker "to address the Board respectfully."
 - b. If the language continues to be abusive, a signal shall be given to turn off the microphone.
 - c. If it still continues, security personnel shall escort the speaker to his/her seat.
 - d. If the chairperson believes the meeting is getting out of order, the hearing shall be closed.
6. There shall be a 10-day notice given to the public prior to a hearing date.

Note: Prior regulation, Policy Manual, BDE, revised

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