

() Required

(X) Local

(x) Notice

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Regular Board meetings. A reasonable period of time shall be set aside during part of each Regular meeting during which the members of the public may openly express themselves directly to the Board. Persons wishing to speak should first be recognized by the President, then identify themselves **by name and address** and the topic they wish to discuss. Comments should be kept as brief as possible and relate to school matters.

Public Hearings/Community Forums

Public hearings and community forums may be scheduled at the discretion of the Board for public discussion of items of major public educational policy.

Work Sessions

Work sessions are held to allow the Board to explore particular educational issues in depth. Although open to the public, these meetings generally do not include an opportunity for public comment.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.

All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

All public comments and questions at School Board Meetings shall be addressed to the President of the Board, who may at his/her discretion direct them to members of the Board or administration. Board members and the Superintendent may ask questions of any person who addresses the Board.

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any comments which violate this policy.

Ref: *Matter of Martin*, 32 EDR 381 (1992)
Appeal of Wittenben, 31 EDR 375 (1992)
Matter of Kramer, 72 EDR 114 (1951)
NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government,
OML-AO-#2696 (Jan.8, 1997) and OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997)

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