

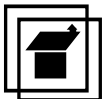
## 0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall set aside a portion of 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.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. **In order to address the Board during the public statement period, members of the public must 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 signed in participants forward at the appropriate time.**
- 2.1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable;
- 3.2. ~~In the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed forty five minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to five minutes' duration.~~
3. **Each statement made by a participant is limited to three 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 public statement 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 statements. In exercising its judgement under this policy, the Board shall be mindful of the value of public statements being heard to the maximum reasonable degree before Board action takes place. In setting a time limit, a Board majority may also empower the presiding officer to alter**



# BYLAWS

## RANDOLPH BOARD OF EDUCATION

BYLAWS  
0167/page 2 of 3  
Public Participation in Board Meetings

**the order of speakers from the order in which they have signed up for the public statement 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.**

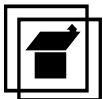
5.3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;

**6. Participants may not cede their time to others;**

7.4. All statements, questions or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer, and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer;

**8.5-** The presiding officer may:

- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- b. Interrupt and/or warn a participant when the statement, question or inquiry is abusive, obscene or may be defamatory;
- c. Request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- d. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with a meeting;
- e. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting;  
and
- f. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or to maintain an orderly operation of the Board meeting.



# BYLAWS

## RANDOLPH BOARD OF EDUCATION

BYLAWS  
0167/page 3 of 3  
Public Participation in Board Meetings

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8  
N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 17 July 2012  
Revised: 14 June 2016; \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

