

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** ~~provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled Board meeting of the,~~ **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 permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw No. 0164.~~

~~Public participation shall be 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, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board.~~

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

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 appropriate;
2. **In the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed five minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to ten minutes duration;**
- 2 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;
- 3 4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
- 4 5. The presiding officer may:



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- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- d. 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
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

Comments and questions at the end of regular monthly public meetings may deal with any topic related to the Board's conduct of the schools. Comments at special meetings must be related to the agenda of the meeting. Advance announcement of all regular, scheduled special, and specially called meetings of the Board is made through newspapers. Emergency meetings scheduled within a forty-eight hour period will be posted in school buildings and newspapers so notified.

Items to be presented annually at such meetings must include, but are not limited to:

1. Discussion of State rules and local procedures for implementation of district goals, objectives and standards;
2. Presentation of audit report;
3. Presentation of budget;
4. Report on pupil progress, including testing program results;
5. Annual plans for special education, bilingual/ESL, and basic skills programs;
6. Graduation and dropout statistics; other demographic data;



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7. Mandated inservice programs.

When required by the administrative code as part of the monitoring process, the Board Secretary shall publish a special notice ten days in advance of meetings. The notice shall describe the purpose of the meeting, list the items to be discussed, and indicate the availability of material relative to such items.

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

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

Adopted: 17 July 2012

