

Public Participation in Board Meeting

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, but any person who disturbs good order may be required to leave. The Board of Trustees encourages all citizens of the District to express their ideas and concerns. The comments of the community will be given careful consideration. In the evaluation of such comments, the first priority will be District students and their educational program.

NOTICE

DUE TO THEIR SENSITIVE NATURE, COMMENTS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT PERSONNEL OR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. ADDITIONALLY, OTHER TOPICS YOU WISH TO ADDRESS MAY ONLY BE APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. IN SUCH INSTANCES, THE BOARD WILL DETERMINE IF YOUR COMMENTS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN OR EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WILL NOTIFY YOU ACCORDINGLY.

A PERSON WHO DISRUPTS THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OR WHOSE PRESENCE IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE MORALS, HEALTH, SAFETY, ACADEMIC LEARNING OR DISCIPLINE OF THE PUPILS OR WHO LOITERS IN SCHOOLS OR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

Any complaint about the District; including instruction, discipline, District personnel policy, procedure, or curriculum; should be referred through proper administrative channels before it is presented to the Board for consideration and action. All complaints should be resolved through proper channels in the following order:

1. Teacher or staff;
2. Principal or supervisor;
3. Director or administrator;
4. Superintendent; then
5. Board of Trustees.

Please also see District Policy No. 4110 Public Complaints.

Members of the public will not be recognized by the Chair as the Board conducts its official business except when the Board schedules public discussion period on a particular item. The Board will listen to the public but, at the same time, expects the public to listen and speak only when properly recognized.

At each regular meeting of the Board the agenda will provide time for public comment before the Board. For special meetings of the Board may provide time for public comment. Persons wishing to address the Board will be required to submit a “Request to Address the Board” form. Forms are available from the Board Clerk and will be available at each meeting or can complete “Request to Appear Before the Board,” located on TSD’s website.

Total time allotted for public comment will not exceed one (1) hour. Public participation will be limited to the time allotted on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to 5 minutes. Public comment will be taken twice. The first public comment will only be for matters scheduled on the agenda. The second public comment is open to item(s) on or off the agenda. Should a large number of the public wish to speak on the same issue or topic, members of the public are encouraged to select one or more representatives to summarize their position. Additionally, the Board Clerk will accept written comments for distribution to the Board. The Board may decline to hear repetitive comments. The Chair may also deny an individual the opportunity to address the Board if the individual has previously addressed the Board on the same subject within the past two months.

If a topic is being considered by a committee established for that purpose, the Chair may refer the public comment to that committee.

Because of the diversity of issues, members of the Board will not respond to public comment. Instead, issues may be recorded and referred to the proper staff person for follow-up. The Chair may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, repetitive, or irrelevant. The Board of Trustees as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the removal of any person who willfully disrupts a meeting to the extent that orderly conduct is seriously compromised. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer may terminate the speaker’s privilege of address if, after being called to order, the speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks.

If a special meeting has been held to obtain public comment on a specific issue, the Chair of the Board may choose not to recognize speakers wishing to comment on the same topic at a regular meeting of the Board.

Cross Reference: 4110 Public Complaints
 4105F Request to Address the Board
 4120 Uniform Grievance Procedure
 4320 Disruption of School Operations

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512 (11) Governance of Schools
 I.C. § 74-206 Executive Sessions—When Authorized

Policy History

Adopted on: August 10, 2009

Revised on: November 9, 2015

Revised on: April 8, 2019

Note: Revisions that are TSD specific are highlighted in light gray.