

## **Board of Education**

### **Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

1. The Board of Education is not a forum; it is a deliberative body. Accordingly, it receives communications, both oral and written, as a medium of information. It does not debate the contents of such communication but considers them in making decisions and in the establishment of policies.
2. The Board encourages communication with the Board in writing on any school-related subject.
3. Following the adoption of the minutes, the President of the Board will recognize members of the public and employees of the District who wish to address the Board. Each speaker shall complete a "Request to speak to the Board of Education" card. Cards will be accepted by the Board Secretary until the President calls the meeting to order. Not more than five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and no more than twenty minutes to each subject under discussion, except with the concurrence of the majority of the Board.
4. It shall be in order for Board members to interrupt a speaker at any time to ask questions or make comments as frequently as necessary to clarify the discussion.
5. The Board may attempt to answer questions regarding items on which they have reached a decision.
6. The Board will not answer questions involving litigation, possible litigation, negotiations, individual District personnel, or specific student discipline cases.
7. No person less than eighteen years of age may address the Board in meeting unless accompanied by his/her parent, guardian or teacher, except with the approval of the majority of the Board.
8. Because all public meetings of the Board of Education are made a matter of public record, each speaker, when recognized by the President, shall give his or her name for the record.
9. The right of individuals to criticize or make reference to specific individuals is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and by Article I, Section 4 of the constitution of the State of Illinois. While the Board must allow such comments, persons addressing the Board are reminded that this ability to criticize persons by name, or to make allegations against them, in no way protects the speaker from subsequent actions of libel or slander by the persons or parties so named. Rude or insulting language will not be tolerated. If the rude or insulting language persists after a warning the right to address the Board will be terminated.
10. It shall be the power of the Board President, or in his or her absence the presiding officer, to ensure that Board rules are followed by all participants in Board meetings and by audience members, and that an atmosphere conducive to public deliberation is maintained. The Board President shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in Board of Education policy.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.  
CROSS REF.: 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)  
ADOPTED: July 18, 2005  
REVISED: September 4, 2007 March 22, 2010