

Board File: BEDH

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the diverse viewpoints from a broad spectrum of citizens throughout the district on issues that impact the educational needs of students and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule time during some Board meetings for public comment. Typically, public comment will be included on the agenda of a regular meeting of the Board when Board action is scheduled to be taken during the meeting and will not be included on the agenda of a regular meeting held as a Board study or work session.

Since the Board's responsibility is setting policy for the school district, members of the public should direct their comments to policy matters. Speakers may offer opinions of school operations and programs, but are encouraged to exercise their speech rights responsibly. The Board encourages the discussion of all personnel matters to be conducted in executive session.

The Board president or the presiding officer shall be responsible for directing speakers to confine their remarks to the agenda item for which they have signed up to speak. Each speaker will typically have up to three minutes to address the Board on their specified agenda item. The Board president or presiding chair of the meeting shall have the discretion to adjust the time allotted for public input as may be necessary to allow the Board ample time to conduct its current business. The Board president or the presiding chair of the meeting shall have discretion to set a time limit on the aggregate length of this period for public comment depending on the length of the agenda and the number of speakers requesting to comment.

The Board president or the presiding chair of the meeting shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves by name and whether they are speaking for themselves, another individual, or a group. Each speaker will be afforded the ability to speak once during the public comment session for the time allotted for individual speakers and may not cede time to or combine time with any other speakers. The Board president or presiding chair shall be responsible for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to any time limits set. If time scheduled on the agenda is insufficient to accommodate the number of speakers, the Board may defer discussion to its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Board members are not required to respond to questions or issues raised. Questions asked by the public that require further investigation may be referred to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for consideration and later response. The Board may direct the superintendent to follow up individually at a later time or, when appropriate, the Board or superintendent will respond at the next board meeting. Some comments will not result in staff response or further Board action.

Members of the public may only be recognized by the presiding chair as noted in this policy.

Members of the public wishing to make formal presentations before the Board, other than public comment, should submit an advanced written request with the superintendent and/or Board president so that such presentations, when appropriate, may be scheduled on the agenda.

In addition to public participation time during Board meetings, the Board is committed to engaging members of the community on an ongoing basis regarding community values about education during times other than the Board's regular meetings and as such encourages community members to contact Board members by other means.

A copy of this policy will be available at Board meetings.

Adopted: October 3, 1978

Revised: November 19, 2002

Revised: January 17, 2006

Revised: May 4, 2010

Revised: August 3, 2010

Revised: January 21, 2014

Revised: March 25, 2014

Revised: January 19, 2016

Revised by the Board: June 18, 2019

Revised: August 10, 2021

Revised: August 22, 2023

LEGAL REF.:

C.R.S. 24-6-401 *et seq.* (*open meetings law*)

CROSS REFS.:

GP 1.3, Board President Responsibilities

KE, Concerns and Complaints