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 make statements 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 every 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 permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw No. 0164 or at the discretion of the presiding officer.

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. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five minutes' duration. No colloquy between a participant and respondent shall extend the five minute time limit provided;

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;

4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;

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. 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.

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

Adopted: 26 November 2001
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