

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

REVISED:

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
1. Purpose 65 P.S. 271 et seq	The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings.
2. Authority 65 P.S. 710.1(A)	<p>The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p> <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.</p> <p>If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006	<p>The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.</p> <p>Public participation shall be permitted before the Board takes official action on any issue of substance or on any specific issue of discussion.</p>
4. Guidelines	<p>Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district or:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anyone having registered a legitimate interest in a contemplated action of the Board.

2. Anyone representing a group in the community or school district.
3. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board.
4. Any district employee.
5. Any district student.

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation if applicable.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to ten (10) minutes duration.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
4. Call a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

Electronic recording devices and cameras, other than those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Board.

No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.

A special press kit shall be distributed to all media representatives covering a copy of the attachments to the agenda as provided to each Board Member less any confidential material.

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