

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board recognizes that public participation at a meeting of the Board is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, the Board may, by a majority vote of its members, determine if public participation will not be a part of a Board meeting agenda or be offered to citizens in an open forum held in conjunction with the meeting.

All individuals or delegations addressing the Board will be asked to state their name, address, and the name of the organization represented, if any. Comments to the Board should focus on issues, rather than personalities, in order to protect the rights of individuals. Criticism or comments related to the job performance of specific District employees will not be allowed at Board meetings.

Any non-agenda items raised by the public will not be voted upon or resolved by the Board at that time. Concerns, however, will be taken under advisement by the Board and will, if deemed necessary, be addressed by the Board at a future date.

Individuals or delegations desiring to address the Board more than once will not be given the floor until all other persons who wish to be heard have had an opportunity to speak. At any meeting, the presiding officer may limit the number of presentations to one per person and each person to not more than three minutes per presentation. The presiding officer also may limit the time allowed for any specific issue. If total time is limited, reasonable efforts will be made to give equal time to speakers expressing opposing points of view. If any Board member objects to the limitations as set forth, a two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required to overrule the presiding officer.

If time does not permit everyone wishing to address the Board an opportunity to do so, citizens may leave a written statement with the Board Secretary for distribution to Board members and the Superintendent. Citizens who may not wish to address the Board personally also may submit a written statement to the Board Secretary for distribution.

If at any time the maximum seating capacity, as determined by the City Fire Marshal, has been reached, individuals or delegations desiring to address the Board will be requested to remain in a designated area of the building until called to speak.

No person shall be excluded from attending any open meeting of the Board of Education, except for a breach of the peace actually committed at a meeting or during closed sessions called by the Board under the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

Although Board retreats and work sessions will be open meetings in accordance with the Iowa Code, generally, an invitation for public comment will not be extended to citizens in attendance. Also, an invitation for public comment normally will not be extended at special meetings of the Board.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the Board only after they have followed Board policy addressing citizens' complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the Board after they have followed Board policy addressing students' complaints.

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22; 279.8B

ADOPTED: 9/19/83  
2/12/90  
4/26/93  
1/5/00  
11/14/02  
12/5/24

Reviewed: 11/92, 2/99, 11/14/02, 12/2/04, 9/3/09, 12/5/13, 3/1/18, 12/2/21, 1/6/22, 8/10/23