

136 Public Participation at Meetings

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Principal no later than one (1) business day prior to the meeting and include:

- name and contact information of the participant;
- group affiliation, if and when appropriate; and
- topic to be addressed.

Provided, however, a person shall be encouraged by not required to register his or her intent to participate in a public comment period offered by the Board prior to said comment period.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board, and, the Board may publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business or at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Attendees may be asked register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- C. Participants must first be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to two (2) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- G. Video recordings are permitted, providing the person operating the recorder has contacted the Principal or his/her designee prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement and agrees to the placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience-;
 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session-; and

3. Equipment shall not be adjusted or re-positioned in a manner that would be distracting to the Board's operations.

H. The presiding officer may:

1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, repetitive, or irrelevant;
2. request any individual to stop speaking and/or leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. waive these rules.

I. In the event that any participant's statement or conduct constitutes a true threat, meaning a statement or conduct where the speaker means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals, the presiding officer may immediately recess, and law enforcement shall be contacted as soon as practicable.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes.

DATE ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE.

As set forth in the pertinent minutes to the meeting of the Board, the Board adopted this policy on August 31st, 2023, and it became effective on August 31st, 2023.

CERTIFICATION.

The Undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing represents a true copy of the Board Policy relating to Public Participation at Meetings, as originally adopted by the Board on August 31st, 2023, is in full force and effect and has not been revoked or amended.

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Marquicia Jones-Woods
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Marquicia Jones-Woods, Board Secretary

9/14/2023

Date Certified