

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

187 Exhibit 1

If You Wish to be Heard

In order to assure that all persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board has adopted as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation in Board meetings:

1. Anyone wishing to speak before the Board, representing either himself/herself or a group, should inform the Superintendent of his/her desire to do so and his/her topic as early as possible, but at least ten days before the meeting. The Board President will consider additional requests to speak before the Board if the request(s) is made at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to allow for proper re-posting of the meeting agenda. This will permit orderly scheduling of his/her remarks on the meeting agenda.
2. If meeting in a virtual format, the district administrator or meeting manager designee will inform virtual attendees of the process necessary to provide public comment. The meeting manager will allow the individual voice/video capabilities in order to provide public comment. Once complete, the meeting manager will disable the voice/video of the individual and return them to listen-only mode.
3. Others who come to a meeting wishing to speak will be allowed to do so only at a time specified for Public Comments on the agenda.
4. Any individual desiring to speak is requested to give his/her name, address, and the group, if any, that he/she is representing.
5. His/her presentation should be as brief as possible, yet include all information considered important by the speaker. Unless an extension of time is granted, each speaker shall limit himself/herself to five minutes.
6. If one spokesperson has presented a matter, it is not necessary for others to repeat the same ideas, but anyone may speak who has something to add that is pertinent. The Board President may request a count of hands of those in attendance who have the same ideas as the speaker. Others speaking on the same subject shall usually be limited to one minute each unless this time is extended by the Board President.
7. Persons appearing before the Board are reminded as a point of information, that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters; thus, questions may be directed to the Board but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the Board.

8. The Board shall hear all requests and comments, but is not required to take action.

The Board will not act on any item which is not on the agenda. The members of the Board will listen to a presentation, and perhaps ask some questions. If requested, the item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The Board will not take action unless properly posted for action.

9. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concerns them. However, in public session, the Board will not allow personal complaints by or about school personnel. The Board may, therefore, refer the complainant to the administration, schedule a closed session at a later date, or take whatever other action it deems prudent or necessary in handling the complaint.
10. No profane or vulgar language nor personal abuse against any person will be permitted.

The Board vests in its President or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when he/she does not adhere to the rules established above.

Ref. Wisconsin Statutes 19.83(2)
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