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| BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy Manual |
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Section: COMMUNITY
Title: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS
Date Adopted: August 17, 1981
Date Last Revised: March 15, 2004

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

- .1 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 In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board, and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings.
- .3 The presiding officer at each public Board meeting will follow the rules of the Board for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy and Policy #006.
- .4 The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:
 - .41 Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the procedures of this Board, or when the Board schedules in advance an interim public discussion period on a particular agenda item.
 - .42 Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they may be dealt with in accordance with these policies and procedures, or at the discretion of the Board, taken under advisement and decided upon at a more appropriate time. But in public session, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any person connected with the school district. Other channels provide for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

- .43 All persons wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent by completing a “Request to Address the Board” form.
 - .431 Such forms will be available prior to each regular and special Board meeting, and must be presented to the Board President when she/he calls for them.
 - .432 Each completed form must include the name and address of the participant, group affiliation if appropriate, and topic to be addressed.
- .44 Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer before they may participate.
- .45 Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration. (The presiding officer may, at his/her discretion, allow additional time if the number of residents indicating a desire to speak is minimal).
- .46 No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- .47 All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
- .48 The presiding officer may:
 - .481 interrupt or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant
 - .482 request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum
 - .483 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
 - .484 call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting as to warrant such action.
- .5 Electronic recording devices and cameras other than those used as official recording devices will be permitted at meetings only with prior approval of the Board.
- .6 The meeting agenda shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.

- .7 Hearing of Citizens: A resident of the district present at a meeting of the Board may address the Board in accordance with the Board's rules and in accordance with legislation, which addresses the rights of citizens to address governmental bodies.
- .71 Complete a "Request to address the Board" form. Such forms will be available prior to each regular and special board meeting, and must be presented to the Board President when she/he calls for them. (Date, name, address, topic to be discussed, time limitation).
- .72 Limit topic to be discussed to that stipulated on the form. (The Board may, at its discretion, allow additional time if the number of residents indicating a desire to speak is minimal).