

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1512

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education meeting is a business meeting and neither a public forum nor a court of law.

The Board of Education provides the opportunity for public participation on school related matters at all regular board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during the last part of each Board meeting. The period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. However, public participation shall not be allowed at work sessions and/or committee meetings.

Persons wishing to address the Board shall call the District Clerk by 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting indicating the particular topic he/she intends to speak on. These individuals will be called upon during the scheduled visitors section on the agenda.

Other persons attending regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings who wish to address the Board shall be invited to do so at the conclusion of the scheduled visitors section of the agenda.

Presentation should be as brief as possible. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each in the presentation of their pre-announced topic, and have the right to speak without interruption. The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours.

Speakers shall address remarks to the President of the Board and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other district officials only upon the approval of the President. Speakers shall not call for expressions of sentiment or support from others present, and shall not be recognized a second time until all who wish have had a first chance to speak. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated. Comments and questions should be made in a respectful manner. The board president will cut off comments deemed to be derogatory, inflammatory, inappropriate or out of order. Personal attacks will not be permitted.

Residents may comment on matters of public interest involving school operations and programs, but may not criticize or personally attack any person connected with the District. No district employee or student may be commented upon or identified by name or situation. Complaints concerning school personnel, students and school matters should be made in accordance with policy and its implementing regulation.

The public does not have the right to insist on an immediate response to their questions at the meeting. Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action. Persons wishing to have matters included on the agenda shall contact the Superintendent in accordance with Policy 1511, Agenda and Board Meeting Procedures.

Board members and the Superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy.

Cross-ref: 3230 - Public Complaints
1511 - Agenda and Board Meeting
Procedures
1510 - Board Meeting Procedures

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