

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationPublic Participation at Board MeetingsA. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at Board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The President has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The President may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

B. Hear

The Board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (phone, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a board meeting, except for closed sessions. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the President.

For all meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to five minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to twenty cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

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