

Public Comments at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

The Board, as the representative body governing the District, wishes to provide an avenue for its constituents and the public to express themselves at Board meetings. ~~Accordingly, at~~ During each regular and special meeting open to the public ~~or Board Committee meeting, members of the public and District employees~~ any person may comment to or ask questions of the Board ~~or Committee~~, subject to reasonable constraints ~~established and recorded in this policy~~. The Board listens to comments and questions during public ~~participation comment~~, but generally manages responses through Board ~~policy~~ Policy 3.30, *Chain of Command*.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board ~~or a Board Committee~~ is expected to follow these guidelines:

- ~~• Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the District.~~
- ~~During the time when the Board is holding official meetings, only those persons recognized by the presiding officer shall be permitted to participate in the discussion.~~ Address the Board ~~or Board Committee~~ only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the ~~Board President or presiding officer~~ Committee Chair. This includes following the directives of the ~~Board President or presiding officer~~ Committee Chair to maintain order and decorum for all. Any individual not so recognized is out of order.
- In order to be recognized by the presiding officer during public ~~participation comment~~, each participant must sign in on the sheet provided at the entrance to the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting.
- ~~Since all open meetings of the Board are made a matter of public record, e~~ Each speaker, when recognized by the ~~Board President or presiding officer~~ Committee Chair, should give ~~his or her~~ their name and state the general subject, before presenting views.
- Each individual will have an opportunity to speak for three minutes. If, however, a large number of individuals wish to be heard, the ~~presiding officer~~ Board President or Committee Chair may shorten this time allotment to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak. A majority of ~~Board or Committee~~ members present at any meeting may waive the three-minute time allotment for an individual. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
- For further review and reference, it is recommended that a copy of the speaker's remarks be provided to the Clerk of the Board ~~or Committee Chair~~.
- Petitions or written correspondence to the Board ~~or Committee~~ may be presented during the Public Comments agenda item at meetings.
- It shall be in order for the members of the Board and/or the Superintendent to question a speaker or to make comments regarding the individual's statement.
- Speakers are expected to conduct themselves with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board ~~policy~~ Policy 8.30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Adopted: September 20, 1972

Reviewed: ~~September 2022~~ August 2026

Amended: November 16, 2022

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- To minimize the possibility of the Board making ill advised, illegal, or improper rulings due to hasty action in the absence of adequate information and study, those proposals or requests that are not items on the agenda will be referred to the Superintendent for a recommendation. The Superintendent will communicate with those participants following the next scheduled Board meeting.
- The ~~presiding officer~~Board President or Committee Chair shall determine procedural matters regarding public comments not otherwise defined in this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.
5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.
[I.A. Rana Enterprises, Inc. v. City of Aurora, 630 F. Supp. 2d 912 \(N.D. Ill. 2009\)](#)

CROSS REF.: [2.150 \(Committees\)](#), [2.220 \(School Board Meeting Procedure\)](#), [3.30 \(Chain of Command\)](#), [8.10 \(Connection with the Community\)](#), [8.30 \(Visitors to and Conduct on School Property\)](#)