



Board Meeting Date: 1/29/24

Title: Updated Community Comment Protocols

Type: Discussion

Presenter: Board Governance Committee

Description: Edina School Board Policy 206 outlines both the board's desire for gathering community comment and the obligation of the public to operate in an orderly manner:

"The school district recognizes the value of participation by the public in deliberations and decisions on district matters. Although providing an opportunity for input in a limited public forum to a school board is not required under Minnesota Statutes, the school board recognizes the value of receiving input from members of the public relating to district matters. The board expects that all public comment be conducted with orderly and efficient proceedings with opportunity for expression of all participant's respective views."

It is the desire of the board to welcome and gather community comment, but also ensure that the work of the school district can be accomplished and progress in a timely manner. This ensures we can meet all statutory obligations, and most importantly, enable time and discussion for the education of our students.

In order to achieve this appropriate balance, the governance committee is proposing the following changes to the community comment period to be instituted **prior to the February 12th regular board meeting**:

- **Public comment period will be limited to fifteen individuals**, unless there is a motion from a board member to extend the public comment period. There is still a 3 minute limit to all public comments. Policy 206 still grants the right to make the public comment period shorter.
- Speakers will be asked to submit an online form to request to speak during the public comment period. This form needs to be ***fully filled out and submitted by 5pm the day of the regular meeting***.
 - The form requires: (1) the individual's name, (2) the individual's home address, (3) whether the individual has a child attending school in the district, (4) if the individual is a student of the Edina Public School District, (5) whether the individual is employed by the district, and (6) the agenda item, if any, that the individual is speaking about.
 - This form will be required to be filled out in full. ***If forms are not completed in full, individuals will not be eligible to be called for public testimony.***
 - There will be paper forms available at the meeting for individuals interested in public comment who did not fill out a form online.
- In the event that more than fifteen individuals submit a written request to speak during the public comment session, the School Board will give first priority to Edina Public School students, individuals who have a child(ren) attending school in the District, individuals who

reside in the District, or individuals who are employed by the District. The School Board will give second priority to individuals who wish to address a specific item that is on the agenda for that meeting. After these priorities have been applied, any remaining openings to speak up to the total of fifteen individuals, will be determined by lottery.

Recommendation: The board provides feedback in order to give updated protocols to the community prior to the February 12 board meeting. Because of Policy 206 and the Board's ability to regulate the time, place and manner of the community comment portion of the board meeting, any changes do not need to be approved through official action, however, it is recommended that any agreed upon changes go to the policy committee to update policy 206 for community transparency.

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: See recommendation.

Attachment(s): None.