



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC First and Final Reading of Policy BED (LOCAL): Board Meetings: Public Participation

SUBMITTED BY: Juan J. Cruz **OF:** School Attorney

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: June 22, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustee approve First and Final Reading of Policy BED (LOCAL): Board Meetings: Public Participation

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

LIMIT ON
PARTICIPATION

Public participation shall be permitted at regular Board meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m. Audience participation at meetings is limited to the public comment portion of the meeting designated for that purpose and to specific agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At regular meetings the Board shall allot one hour to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins and shall indicate the agenda item for the present regular Board meeting about which they wish to speak. Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes.

No presentation shall exceed three persons per any side of an issue, nor shall the time per subject exceed ten minutes. The ten-minute rule may be waived by the Board as appropriate. Delegations of more than three persons shall appoint one person to present their views before the Board.

BOARD'S
RESPONSE

Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

COMPLAINTS AND
CONCERNS

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the person shall be referred to the appropriate policy (see list below) to seek resolution:

Employee complaints: DGBA

Student or parent complaints: FNG

Public complaints: GF

DECORUM

Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against Board members, District employees or students. Speakers or others who engage in personal attacks, or use insulting, profane, threatening, or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff.

DISRUPTION

The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any person continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the person removed from the meeting.

Persons attending regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meetings shall not engage in conduct that disrupts, interrupts, or causes delays in the proceedings of the meeting. Further, all persons attending regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meetings shall obey the orders of the presiding officer, and observe appropriate decorum. An attendee who engages in conduct that disrupts, interrupts, or causes delays in the proceedings of a regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meeting, or who engages in behavior described in Item 1 below during these meetings, shall be subject to increased monitoring by District peace officers and security staff at subsequent regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meetings.

The following behavior standards shall apply to all persons attending a regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meeting:

1. Attendees shall not engage in acts that breach the peace of a Board meeting, including but not limited to: fights, assaults, exhibitions of firearms, disorderly conduct, or disruptive activity.

Any person who becomes boisterous or disruptive while addressing the Board or while attending a regular, special-called, or sub-committee Board meeting shall be asked to leave by the presiding officer. If the person fails to leave, the person shall be removed from the room if directed by the presiding officer. If the presiding officer fails to act, any Board member may move to require enforcement of Board policy, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board shall require the presiding officer to act.

2. An attendee who engages in behavior described in Item 1 above for which he or she is asked to leave shall not be allowed to address a Board meeting for 60 days, if he or she leaves cooperatively. If the attendee is removed from the meeting or fails to leave when directed to do so, that attendee shall not be allowed to address a Board meeting for the ensuing 90 days.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Should any citizen wish to distribute printed handout materials to the Board or audience, this shall be done either before or after the public comment but not during. No speech shall be permitted on behalf of or against a person running for political office, and no literature pertaining to any form of electioneering shall be permitted during the meeting. No speech shall be permitted on behalf of promoting a for-profit organization or to otherwise advertise products or services to the Board.

Should the speaker drift from the stated subject, become disruptive or abusive, or become verbally abusive of District employees, students, or Board members by name, he or she shall be given one warning; if a second warning is required, then the speaker shall forfeit his or her remaining time allotment.

Speakers who sign up to speak on a topic not listed as a Board agenda item or who do not indicate which agenda item they wish to address shall not be recognized to speak.

SIGNS

Signs or placards brought to a Board meeting shall not be allowed inside the Board room.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC
FORUM

In the event these provisions for public comment do not, as determined by the Board, meet the needs of the community, the Board may schedule a public hearing as soon as practicable for the purpose of hearing from additional speakers.

~~PUBLIC FORUM--
BUSINESS/
INSTRUCTION
MEETINGS~~

~~Individuals interested in speaking on any matter during the business or instruction committee meetings shall fill out a form no later than seven calendar days prior to the meeting. The form must be filled out completely, and the topic(s) the speaker wishes to address must be identified. The form can be found on the District's website or picked up at the Superintendent's office. After completion, the form must be submitted to the Superintendent's office. Each speaker shall be allowed three minutes. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in this policy.~~

~~No presentation shall exceed three persons per any side of an issue, nor shall the time per subject exceed ten minutes. Delegations of more than three persons shall appoint one person to present their views before the Board.~~