



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

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

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon

OF: Deputy Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: January 26, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RATIONALE: Based on action taken by the Board at the December 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

**Limit on
Participation**

~~Public participation shall be permitted at the beginning of all Board meetings.~~ Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment in accordance with this policy ~~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

Regular Meetings

At regular Board meetings, the Board shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Business/Instruction
Committee
Meetings

At Business/Instruction Board Committee meetings, the Board Committee shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. Individuals who make public comment at a Business/Instruction Board Committee meeting are subject to and must comply with all other portions of this policy.

Special Meetings

At all other Board meetings, public comment shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Procedures

Individuals who wish to participate in the public comment 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 Board meeting about which they wish to speak as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board. Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes.~~

Public comment shall occur at the beginning of the meeting.

No speaker's presentation shall exceed three minutes, except that presentations by non-English speakers who require a translator shall not exceed six minutes. Time limits may be waived or modified by the presiding officer as appropriate and in accordance with this policy.

Meeting
Management

When necessary for effective meeting management or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may make adjustments to public comment procedures, including adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting, reordering agenda items, deferring public comment on nonagenda items, continuing agenda items to a later meeting, providing expanded opportunity for public comment, or establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting the time allotted to each speaker. However, no individual shall be given less than one minute to make public comments.

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	<p>The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether an individual addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the individual shall be referred to the appropriate policy (see list below) to seek resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 District employees or students. Speakers or others who engage in these 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	<p>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 individual 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 individual removed from the meeting.</p> <p>Individuals attending a Board meeting shall not engage in conduct that disturbs, interrupts, or causes delays in the proceedings of the meeting. Further, all individuals attending a Board meeting 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 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 Board meetings.</p> <p>Individuals attending a Board meeting shall exhibit the following behavior standards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attendees shall not engage in acts that breach the peace of a Board meeting, including, but not limited to, fights, assaults, exhibiting a firearm, disorderly conduct, or disruptive activity.2. Any individual who becomes boisterous or disruptive while addressing the Board or while attending a Board meeting shall be asked to leave by the presiding officer. If the

individual fails to leave, he or she shall be removed from the room if directed by the presiding officer. If the presiding officer fails to act, any Board member may make a motion to require enforcement of Board policy, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board shall require the presiding officer to act.

3. An attendee who engages in behavior described in item 1 above for which he or she is asked to leave and does so in a cooperative manner shall not be permitted to address the Board at a meeting for 60 days. An attendee who is removed from a meeting or who fails to leave when directed to do so shall not be permitted to address the Board at a meeting for 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 an individual 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 or students 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.

A speaker who signs up to speak on a topic not listed as a Board agenda item or who does not indicate which agenda item he or she wishes 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 agenda items during the business or instruction committee meetings shall fill out a public comment form prior to the meeting. The form must be filled out completely, and the topic(s) the speaker wishes to address must be identified. Each speaker shall be allowed three minutes for his or her presentation, except presentations by non-English speakers who require a translator shall be allowed six minutes. Time limits may be waived by the presiding officer as appropriate. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, students, or parents~~

~~must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated
in this policy.~~

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

Limit on Participation	Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment in accordance with this policy. 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 Board meetings, the Board shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.
Regular Meetings	
Business/Instruction Committee Meetings	At Business/Instruction Board Committee meetings, the Board Committee shall permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. Individuals who make public comment at a Business/Instruction Board Committee meeting are subject to and must comply with all other portions of this policy.
Special Meetings	At all other Board meetings, public comment shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.
Procedures	Individuals who wish to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board. Public comment shall occur at the beginning of the meeting. No speaker's presentation shall exceed three minutes, except that presentations by non-English speakers who require a translator shall not exceed six minutes. Time limits may be waived or modified by the presiding officer as appropriate and in accordance with this policy.
Meeting Management	When necessary for effective meeting management or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may make adjustments to public comment procedures, including adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting, reordering agenda items, deferring public comment on nonagenda items, continuing agenda items to a later meeting, providing expanded opportunity for public comment, or establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting the time allotted to each speaker. However, no individual shall be given less than one minute to make public comments.
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.

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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**Complaints and
Concerns**

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether an individual addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the individual 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 District employees or students. Speakers or others who engage in these 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 individual 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 individual removed from the meeting.

Individuals attending a Board meeting shall not engage in conduct that disturbs, interrupts, or causes delays in the proceedings of the meeting. Further, all individuals attending a Board meeting 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 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 Board meetings.

Individuals attending a Board meeting shall exhibit the following behavior standards:

1. Attendees shall not engage in acts that breach the peace of a Board meeting, including, but not limited to, fights, assaults, exhibiting a firearm, disorderly conduct, or disruptive activity.
2. Any individual who becomes boisterous or disruptive while addressing the Board or while attending a Board meeting shall be asked to leave by the presiding officer. If the individual fails to leave, he or she shall be removed from the room if directed by the presiding officer. If the presiding officer fails to act, any Board member may make a motion to require

enforcement of Board policy, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board shall require the presiding officer to act.

3. An attendee who engages in behavior described in item 1 above for which he or she is asked to leave and does so in a cooperative manner shall not be permitted to address the Board at a meeting for 60 days. An attendee who is removed from a meeting or who fails to leave when directed to do so shall not be permitted to address the Board at a meeting for 90 days.

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