



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

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

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

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** May 19, 2010

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustee approve First 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 5:30 p.m.** Audience participation at a Board meetings is limited to the public comment portion of the meeting designated for that purpose. 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

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.

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.

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

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.

**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 a person running for political office and no literature pertaining to any form of electioneering shall be permitted during the meeting.**

**Should the speaker drift from the stated subject, or become disruptive or abusive, he or she shall be given one warning; if a second warning is required, then the speaker shall forfeit the remaining time allotment.**

**Speakers who sign up to speak on non-board agenda items or who do not indicate which agenda item they wish to address will 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.**