



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: District 97 Board of Education
Dr. Ushma Shah, Superintendent

FROM: Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Communications
Lonya Boose, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Update to Board Policy 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

DATE: May 9, 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on District 97 Board Policy 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board), as well as the related procedures for public comments.

Background

On September 27, 2023, the District 97 Board discussed recommended revisions to Board Policy 2:230, which were part of a Press Plus policy update. In the document provided to the board, one of the changes included increasing the time limit for individual public comments from three to five minutes. The board indicated support for this change during its discussion, and ultimately voted to approve the Press Plus changes to Policy 2:230 as presented. The administration subsequently updated the district website to reflect the update.

In January 2023, it was discovered that the language in the district's public policy manual did not reflect the changes discussed at the September 2022 meeting. After contacting Press Plus, we learned that the packet sent to the district via email included general updates to policies; those specific to District 97 (containing specific edits based on the district's revision history, board review and approval) are only available by logging into the district's Press Plus account. As a result, when the update was approved in September, the manual reflected the district-specific changes, not the general ones that were provided to the board. Press Plus noted that District 97 was not the first school district to reach out regarding this issue.

The administration informed the board of the discrepancy in January 2023, noting that Policy 2:230—as updated through Press Plus—reflected the previous three-minute time limit. The district has been utilizing three minutes since that time, in alignment with the public policy.

Recommendation

As part of the Consent Agenda for the May 9, 2023 board meeting, the administration is recommending that Policy 2:230 be updated to change the time limit for individual public

comments to five minutes in order to reflect the board's September 2022 discussion and vote. We are recommending that we keep all other district-specific language that is currently in the policy.

Next Steps

Upon approval, the public policy manual and the district website will be updated.