

ADVISORY 244

Note: This material is written by NMSBA for informational purposes only, and not as legal advice. You may wish to consult with your attorney for further explanation and advice as to the content of this advisory.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

The Board invites the viewpoints of citizens throughout the District, and considers the responsible presentation of these viewpoints vital to the efficient operation of the District. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for the proper governance of the schools and therefore the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner. The Board therefore establishes the following procedures to receive input from citizens of the District:

- Any individual desiring to address the Board shall complete a form (Request to Address Board) and give this form to the Superintendent prior to the start of the Board meeting.
- The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing speakers, maintaining proper order, and adhering to a time limit of thirty (30) minutes for all presentations and a maximum of five (5) minutes per speaker. In order to ensure that each individual has an opportunity to address the Board, the President may also set a time limit of less than five (5) minutes for individual speakers based upon the length of the comment period and number of requests received.
- Questions of fact asked by the public shall, when appropriate, be answered by the President or referred to the Superintendent for reply. No action or discussion shall transpire among Board members regarding such questions or comments. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Superintendent for later report to the Board. Questions or comments on matters that are currently under legal review will not receive a response.
- Members of the public or invited guests may be recognized by the President to assist the Board with information for the conduct of its official business.
- Personal attacks upon Board members, staff personnel, or other persons in attendance or absent by individuals who address the Board are discouraged. Presenters are cautioned that statements or representations concerning others that convey an unjustly unfavorable impression may subject the presenter to civil action for defamation. Policies KE, KEB, KEC, and KED are provided by the Board for disposition of legitimate complaints, including those involving individuals.

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Beginning July 1, 2024, live audio and video webcasts of local school board meetings shall be accessible through the District's website and shall include a user interface that allows members of the public to submit written or verbal comments. The Superintendent may develop regulations or procedures related to the public's submission of written or verbal comments through the webcast medium.

Adopted: date of manual adoption

LEGAL REF.: 10-15-1 NMSA

CROSS REF.: BDB - Board Officers

BE - School Board Meetings

BHC - Board Communications with Staff Members

BHD - Board Communications with the Public

KEB - Public Concerns/Complaints about Personnel

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