

Public Input at Board Meetings

BED (Legal) - It is a criminal offense for a person, with intent to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, to substantially obstruct or interfere with the ordinary conduct of a meeting by physical action or verbal utterance and thereby curtail the exercise of others' First Amendment rights. Penal Code 42.05; Morehead v. State, 807 S.W. 2d 577 (Tex. Cr. App. 1991)

BED (Local) - 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.

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4. The board will not hear complaints regarding individual employees in public session.
5. The board will not hear complaints or otherwise entertain any remarks related to individual students or that would reveal confidential student information in public session.
6. Board members will not leave the dais at any time to address other board members.
7. Persons not adhering to these rules will be warned once by the presiding officer and upon a second violation be asked to cease speaking. Failure to follow the direction of the presiding officer could result in the presiding officer asking the speaker to leave the meeting and possibly banning the person from future meetings.

Before Meeting, the Presiding Officer can say, "The board welcomes input from the public. That input can be given in accordance with Policy BED and the Texas Education Code during the public comment section of the meeting. During that time, only the speaker will be allowed to address the board for the allotted time. Audience members should not interrupt the meeting in any way through comments or speaking loudly or using their cell phone at any time. As per board policy, audience members who interrupt the meeting will be warned and/or asked to leave the meeting."

Procedures to be followed by the Presiding Officer when a violation occurs.

1. The presiding officer will stop the meeting and stop the time if in public comment
2. The presiding officer will say, "You have violated Board Operating Procedures and/or Policy BED by _____. A second violation will result in your removal from the meeting."
3. If a second violation occurs, the presiding officer will stop the meeting and stop the time if in public comment. The presiding officer will say, "You have violated Board Operating Procedures and/or Policy BED a second time, and you must now leave the meeting."
4. The presiding officer will wait for the person to leave the meeting before resuming the meeting. If the person does not leave the meeting, the presiding officer will say, "You have been asked to leave the meeting, and you have not done so. Per Policy BED, I am requesting the assistance of law enforcement to remove the individual from the meeting. The individual is now banned from future meetings as per our Board Operating Procedures."
5. After the person is removed, the presiding will immediately begin the meeting again and follow the agenda. The presiding officer will not address the behavior but follow the agenda.