

### **1.17 POLICY GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS**

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind invites members of the public to attend its meetings and give public comments on any matter that is within the powers and duties of the Board as provided under *Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-620, 6-43-102*. The Board customarily hears public comments during its regularly scheduled monthly meetings. In order to accommodate members of the public who wish to offer comments, and to ensure that public comments are offered in an orderly and efficient manner, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A sign-in sheet provided by the Board of Trustees will be made accessible to the public until the start of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to offer comments must sign in prior to the meeting being called to order and identify the agenda item, if any, that they wish to make a public comment.
2. Members of the public may not name, by name, any individual students or offer any other individual identifiable information about any students.
3. Members of the public shall not provide public comment that prejudices the Board of Trustees concerning a student or personnel matter that is on the agenda for the Board of trustees' consideration of a disciplinary or employment action.
4. Members of the public are limited to three (3) minutes to speak. However, the Board has the right to waive the time limitation.
5. The Chairperson of the Board has the authority to terminate the comments of any member of the public who fails to follow the procedures outlined above. The Chairperson of the Board also has authority to terminate the comments of any member of the public who uses abusive language or is otherwise disruptive to the meeting.
6. A total of thirty (30) minutes will be allotted at the beginning of the board meeting for members of the public to offer comments. If the public comment period at the beginning of a Board of Trustees meeting exceeds thirty (30) minutes, the Board may move public comment on matters within the powers and duties of the Board as provided under *Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-620, 6-43-102* that are not on the Board of Trustee's meeting agenda for action to a time later in the Board meeting. Failure to identify an agenda item on the public comment sign-in sheet may result in the public comment being heard at a later time in the Board meeting.

*See Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-619.*