
#9540.10
Meeting Conduct
(formerly Public Participation At Board Meetings)

All regular and special meetings of the Board will be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district, it will schedule one or more periods during each meeting for public participation. It may set a time limit on the length of this period and / or a time limit for individual speakers.

Comments and questions at a regular meeting may deal with any topic related to the Board's conduct of the schools. Comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting.

1. Meeting Conduct

- A. Meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted by the Chairperson in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the adopted bylaws of the Board.

- B. All Board meetings shall commence at, or as close as practicable to, the stated time, provided there is a quorum.

- C. All regular and special Board meetings shall be guided by an agenda which will have been prepared and delivered in advance to all Board members and other designated persons.

- D. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Board except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.

#9540.10(b)**2. Procedures for Participation by Means of Electronic Equipment**

- A. Board members may participate in meetings by means of electronic equipment (e.g., telephone, video conference) under the conditions set forth herein. When such conditions are met, any Board member participating by means of electronic equipment shall be counted for the purpose of constituting a quorum. Conditions for participation are as follows:
1. The facility that is made available to the public that wishes to attend the meeting must be located where the greatest number of Board of Education members are located;
 2. Any physical or demonstrable material that is used in the course of the proceedings must be present in the place where the public is located; and
 3. All those in attendance at the meeting, at whatever location, must be able to hear and identify all participants in the proceeding, including their individual remarks and votes.
- B. When a Board member is participating in a meeting by means of electronic equipment, the Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the three conditions enumerated above are met. In addition, the Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that a Board member participating by means of electronic equipment has adequate opportunity to express himself/herself in Board discussion, including the opportunity to take the floor and make motions.

#9540.10(c)**3. Public Address**

A. The Board may permit any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction during a portion of the Board's regular meetings so designated for such purpose.

B. The Board Secretary will read the following statement before public comment:

The Board welcomes public comment at our meetings. When speaking, please state your name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes in order to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please speak on one topic per public comment session. The Board is happy to hear from our community, but at a business meeting it should not be expected that the Board will respond. Neither public comment period is a time for public discussion. If necessary, the community member will be contacted for follow-up. For remote attendees, if you would like to have your comments read, please add them to chat or questions and answers functionality.

(1) Three minutes may be allotted to each speaker, which may be modified at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so.

(2) The Board Secretary shall act as timekeeper for the meeting, if deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

#9540.10(d)

- (3) No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting.
Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chairperson, of that person's privilege of address.
- (4) All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 1-200 Definitions
- 1-206 Denial of access of public records or meeting. Notice. Appeal.
- 1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public.
- 1-232 Conduct of meetings. (re: disturbances)

Freedom of Information Commission Advisory Opinion #41 (April 9, 1980)

- (cf. 9540.1 - Notification of Board Meetings)
(cf. 9540.2 - Agenda)

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