

Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
Code	po0169.1
Status	Active
Adopted	December 12, 2017
Last Revised	December 10, 2018

0169.1 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. The Board offers public participation to members of the public in accordance with the procedures below. The Board applies these procedures to all speakers, and does not discriminate based on the identity of the speaker, content of the speech, or viewpoint of the speaker.

The Board is also committed to conducting its meetings in a productive and efficient manner that assures that the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a reasonable period of time, honors the voluntary nature of the Board's time and using that time efficiently, and allows for a fair and adequate opportunity for input to be considered.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- D. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- E. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration, unless extended by the presiding officer.
- F. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- H. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. prohibit public comments that are frivolous, repetitive, and/or harassing;
 - 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, off-topic, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum or is disruptive to the conduct of the meeting;

4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
5. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;
6. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

I. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board.

© **NEOLA 2018**

Legal R.C. 3313.20

Last Modified by Carolyn Webber on May 8, 2019