

PUBLIC COMMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. ~~In order and has created rules~~ to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner. The board shall set time aside for public comment ~~, [at a specific time during the meeting] [and] [prior to the discussion of each agenda item]. If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice meeting except closed sessions, at a particular meeting and will announce that decision at the beginning of the meeting. those times specified by the board.~~ The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted. ~~Subjects for comment should involve areas within the board's proper responsibility~~ Hostile conduct and offensive or defamatory comments will not be tolerated.

The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public comment. The board president shall specify the total amount of time available for public comment prior to opening the public comment period. If public comment is allowed prior to individual agenda items, that limit on the total comment period should also be defined. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes for each participant. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

The board requires any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the board waives the address requirement to protect the security of the individual.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees or students who have complaints shall follow policies 403.05 and 504.01 respectively. The board will follow policy 1005.01 in handling public complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting and such information will only be added to the agenda packet at the discretion of the superintendent after consultation with the board president.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.07 Board Member Liability
403.05 Public Complaints about Employees
1005.01 Public Complaints

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____