

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board will set time aside for citizen participation, either at a specific time during the meeting or during the discussion of agenda items. Citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item must notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board may do so at this time. The board however, will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents. The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. The orderly process of the board meeting will not be interfered with or disrupted. Only those speakers recognized by the board president will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the board only after they have followed board policy addressing citizens' complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the board after they have followed board policy addressing students' complaints.

***NOTE: Members of the public do not have a legal right to participate in board meetings. Boards need to make the determination how best if at all, to involve the public in their board meetings. Boards that follow other practices for allowing the public to participate in board meetings should amend this policy to reflect their practice.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22; 279.8 (2007).

Cross Reference: 205 Board Member Liability  
210.8 Board Meeting Agenda  
Public Hearings  
Communication Channels  
401.4 Employee Complaints  
402.5 Public Complaints About Employees  
502.4 Student Complaints and Grievances

Approved 7-21-2008

Reviewed 6-4-2013

Revised \_\_\_\_\_