

## **GP-17 Public Participation in Board Meetings (redlined from BEDH)**

All regular and special meetings of the Board of Education shall be open to the public, but any person who disturbs good order may be required to leave. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule one or more periods during regular meetings for brief comments from the public.

Citizens wishing to make a formal presentation before the Board must make arrangements in advance with the Superintendent to schedule such presentation on the agenda.

At regular meetings, citizens can address the Board on any topic related to the operation of the schools. Only those topics which are on that particular agenda may be addressed at special meetings. ~~Complaints involving the reputation of any person connected with the district will not be heard by the Board while sitting in public session.~~

The president of the Board is responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves with name, address, city or as an employee, for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to time limits.

Members of the public will not be recognized by the president as the Board conducts its official business except when the Board schedules an interim public discussion period on a particular item. The Board shall listen to the public but, at the same time, expects the public to listen and speak only when properly recognized.

### **Eligibility to Address the Board**

The following persons are eligible to address the Board:

1. Residents of the district
2. Parents of students enrolled in district schools
3. Members of the staff
4. Individuals who have been requested by the superintendent or Board to present a given subject
5. Nonresidents of the district who have previously requested and received the permission of the superintendent or Board

### **Hearing of Persons**

Anyone who would like to address the Board must sign the public comment roster (name, address, and topic) and are allowed to sign up only once per public comment portion of the agenda.

Person(s) addressing the Board on an item on the agenda will be called on during the public comment part one portion of the agenda or when that particular item is discussed. Persons

addressing the Board on an item(s) not on the agenda will be given the opportunity to do so under part two of the public comment portion of the agenda.

The Board president will request that a large number of citizens who sign up as a group to speak on a single topic select speakers and comment for no more than ten (10) minutes. An individual speaker on a single topic will be given three (3) minutes to speak. If more than 20 individuals sign up to speak, individual speakers will be given two (2) minutes to speak and groups will be given five (5) minutes to speak. If more than 30 individuals sign up to speak, individual speakers will be given one (1) minute and groups given (3) minutes to address the Board.

Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of the Board business cannot be allowed. Any person who disturbs good order may be required to leave.

~~Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if, after being called to order, the speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks.~~

Any personal approval or disapproval of action taken by the Board during the meeting may be indicated during the public comment period of a regular Board meeting, but it is requested that there be no applause or dissent during the meeting.

All charges, complaints, or challenges are to be presented to the Superintendent or Board in writing, signed by the complainant. All charges, if presented to the Board directly, are to be referred to the Superintendent for investigation and report.

Challenges of instructional materials used in the district will be handled in accordance with district policy KEC, Public Concerns/Complaints About Instructional Materials.

To place an item on the agenda, written material must be filed with the Superintendent. The written material should include the name of the person or persons making the request and the name of the organization or group represented, if any. Also contained in the request will be a statement of action requested by the Board and pertinent background information leading to the request.

The Superintendent, upon receipt of a properly executed request, may set a date for inclusion of the requested item on the Board agenda or may respond to the issue in another manner.

If the item is considered, the superintendent will notify the individual or group of the time and place of the meeting at which the item will be considered.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

KE, Public/ Parent Concerns and Complaints

**LEGAL REF.:**

C.R.S. 24-6-401 et seq. (open meetings law)