

Board Policy 1510: Regular Board Meetings and Rules Public Participation at Meetings

At each public meeting of the Board, there shall be at least one opportunity for a public comment period. Anyone wishing to speak during the public comment period must sign in on the registry to speak prior to the public comment session. The privilege of the floor shall be offered to members of the public who have signed in indicating they have an interest in addressing the Board and shall be extended to interested parties by the Presiding Officer during the public comment period.

District residents addressing agenda items shall be permitted to speak first, followed by District residents not addressing agenda items and finally to non-district residents if time permits. Any member of the public who addresses the Board under this section shall begin his/her comments by stating his/her name and address of residence for the record. Speakers must address the Board as a group and are not permitted to address Board members, staff or other audience members individually.

Each person wishing to speak shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes in which to address the Board. This may be extended not to exceed five minutes on the privilege motion of any member of the Board. Should the matter of interest require longer than two minutes, the President may request a summary statement to be prepared and distributed to the Board. The total time to be spent in public comment shall be limited to ten minutes, except that the Board may vote to extend the public period. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, an additional period of public comment may be held at the end of the meeting under the same terms as previously identified for public comment.

The Board should not be expected to respond to, or take action on, any item of public comment at the same meeting where it is raised, but may postpone response until a future time. A Board member may respond if he/she believes it is necessary to clarify presented information, correct a factual error, or provide specific information as a matter of public record. Board members will not answer questions during public participation but will instead refer speakers to the appropriate administrators. Speakers will make no statements during the meeting that involve personal, impertinent, or slanderous attacks on any group, organization or individual, a member of the Board, an employee of the District, a member of the audience or a member of the public regardless of whether the individual sought to be named is present.

Speakers will not use profane, vulgar, threatening, or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs and will at all times maintain a professional decorum. Speakers will not disrupt the meeting with loud outbursts or other disruptive conduct or behavior either during the Speaker's assigned time or at any other time during the meeting. Speakers understand that a failure to comply with the foregoing rules may result in early termination of the Speaker's allotted time, a denial of future requests to speak, and any other actions deemed necessary by the President of the Board.

The following statement will be provided in writing at all board meetings and may be read by the Presiding Officer prior to the public comment period to provide clarification to those individuals who choose to participate, and/or included on the printed agenda:

The Board of Education welcomes District residents, parents and other interested persons to its meeting. Community involvement at Board meetings is encouraged so that the Board can better understand and represent the views of its constituents. Please be aware, however, that information such as individual student information or particular personnel issues cannot be discussed at public sessions of the Board. Please note that speakers will be called upon individually, and when recognized by the Board President, please state your name and residence. Statements are restricted to a maximum of two minutes and speakers will be notified by the Board President when his/her time has expired. The Board and the District staff take public comment very seriously, however, the Board will not respond to comments or questions during the public comment period.

The Board asks the public's cooperation in maintaining a safe and respectful decorum and the Board President reserves the right to limit individual comments if it is deemed necessary. Speakers will make no statements during the meeting that involve personal, impertinent, or slanderous attacks on any group, organization or individual, a member of the Board, an employee of the District, a member of the audience or a member of the public regardless of whether the individual sought to be named is present. Speakers will not use profane, vulgar, threatening or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs and will at all times maintain a professional decorum. Speakers will not disrupt the meeting with loud outbursts or other disruptive conduct or behavior either during the Speaker's assigned time or at any other time during the meeting.

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