



Book	Clark Pleasant Policy Manual
Section	Section 1000 - School Board Governance
Title	Public Participation at Meetings
Code	1305
Status	Active
Adopted	May 18, 2021

The Board of School Trustees of the Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school corporation matters.

The following provisions address when public comments are a separate agenda item for a board meeting.

Public Comments shall be permitted under the agenda item entitled "Public Comments" and must be restricted to items appearing on the agenda of the Board meeting.

The provisions in this policy will apply at the collective bargaining public hearing, the tentative agreement meeting, and at the time during a meeting when the school board will vote to ratify the tentative collective bargaining agreement. All public comments made at the collective bargaining public hearing will be recorded in a manner which will be shared with every member of the school board.

Those persons who wish to address the Board during the agenda item entitled "Public Comments" must sign in prior to the start of the Board meeting and list the agenda items on which the visitor wishes to speak.

Persons who wish to address the Board concerning an item on the agenda must state the following:

- a. Name and address of participant;*
- b. Group affiliation, if any; and*
- c. Agenda items to be addressed.*

The portion of the meeting during which the comments of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes or longer based up the number of persons signed up to speak and the length of the agenda.

The following provisions address when public comments are for specific agenda items at a board meeting.

Members of the public may comment on specific agenda items. When the identified items are brought up for consideration and prior to the board discussion on the agenda item, the presiding officer will allocate time not to exceed three minutes each to the individuals who have requested an opportunity for comment.

A person who desires to speak to the board must register before the start of the meeting. A registration sheet shall be available at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Required registration information shall include the name of the person providing the comments, the organization represented (if applicable), and the agenda items upon which the person wishes to comment.

Following are rules for public comments and consequences of violations of the rules.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public comments are permitted shall administer the procedures of the Board and shall be guided by the following rules:

- 1. A person must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if any.*

2. *Each statement made by a person shall be limited to three minutes in duration.*
3. *No person may speak more than once on the same topic.*
4. *All statements shall be directed to the Board; no person may address or question Board members individually.*
5. *No person may comment on any charges or complaints against employees of the school corporation or other personnel matters.*
6. *Statements shall not be abusive or argumentative. Persons making comments shall not debate statements made by other persons.*
7. *Boisterous conduct will not be permitted; nor will any defamatory or abusive remarks be tolerated.*
8. *Remarks by any person addressing the Board which reflect adversely against the character or motive of a person or group or are in the form of inferences, insinuations, and innuendoes against the character or motives of a person are prohibited.*

The presiding officer may terminate any person's privilege of address for persistent violations of rules or disruptive conduct.

The presiding officer may:

1. *Interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;*
 2. *Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;*
 3. *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; or*
 4. *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.*
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