207  PUBLIC HEARINGS

I.  PURPOSE

The school board recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters properly before the school board. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

II.  GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order for the school board to efficiently receive public input on matters properly before the school board, the procedures set forth in this policy are established by the school board.

III.  PROCEDURES

A.  Public Hearings

Public hearings are required by law to be held concerning certain issues, including but not limited to, school closings (Minn. Stat. § 123B.51), education district establishment (Minn. Stat. § 123A.15), and agreements for secondary education (Minn. Stat. § 123A.30). Additionally, other public hearings may be held by the school board on school district matters at the discretion of the school board.

B.  Notice of Public Hearings

Public notice of a public hearing required by law shall be given as provided by the enabling legislation. Public notice of other hearings shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the school board.

C.  Public Participation

The school board retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the school board and complete and file with the clerk of the school board an appropriate request card prior to the commencement of the hearing if the school board utilizes this procedure. In that case, any request to address the school board after the commencement of the hearing will be granted only at the discretion of the school board.

1.  Format of Request: If required by the school board, a written request of
an individual or a group to address the school board shall contain the name
and address of the person or group seeking to address the school board. It
shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief
statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.

2. **Time Limitation**: The school board retains the discretion to limit the time
for each presentation as needs dictate.

3. **Groups**: The school board retains the discretion to require that any group
of persons who desire to address the school board designate one
representative or spokesperson. In the event that the school board
requires the designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other
person in the group will be recognized to address the school board, except
as otherwise determined by the school board.

4. **Privilege to Speak**: A school board member should direct any remarks or
questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair
will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order.
Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the school board, or
the proceedings may be directed to leave.

5. **Personal Attacks**: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the school board
are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall
terminate that person’s privilege to address the school board.

6. **Limitations on Participation**: Depending upon the number of persons in
attendance seeking to be heard, the school board reserves the right to
impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary in order to
provide an orderly, efficient, and fair opportunity for those present to be
heard.

**Legal References:**
- Minn. Stat. § 123A.15 (Education District Establishment)
- Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)
- Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (School Closings)

**Cross References:**
- MSBA/MASA Model Policy 206 (Public Participation in School Board
  Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data
  Privacy Considerations)