

BALD EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: November 11, 2010

REVISED: October 19, 2021

	903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS
1. Purpose	The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the district and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.
2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710	The Board shall adopt policy to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.
65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1	In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.
	The Board shall normally require that all public comments be made near the beginning of each meeting.
65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1	If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting until an opportunity is provided for public input prior to the action being taken on that particular item.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006	The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.
4. Guidelines	Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures and the organizational structure of the district.

	<p>The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district or anyone representing a group in the community or school district, any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, any district employee or any district student.</p> <p>Visitor requests may be referred to the administration for study and referred back to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.</p> <p>Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if applicable.</p> <p>Citizen participation time may be limited to the presentation of materials not previously addressed in the same meeting and to a total time period of twenty (20) minutes for any one issue.</p> <p>No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.</p> <p>All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.</p> <p>The presiding officer may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Interrupt or terminate a participant'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 to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.4. Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board. <p>Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Board. All video cameras and recording devices, regardless of affiliation with any news outlet, may only be used in the space designated for filming/recording.</p>
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	<p>All members of the press must submit prior notice to the Board Secretary. Any non-press persons wishing to record any or all of the public meeting must identify himself/herself to the Board President immediately prior to the start of said public meeting, and must also publicly announce his/her intention to record the meeting prior to the start of the meeting and again during the portion of the meeting allowing for public comment; and again upon the Board's reconvening of a public meeting following any executive session held during the public meeting, if applicable. No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.</p> <p>The meeting agenda shall be available to the press and public at the meetings. Additional nonconfidential information will be provided to the press and public, upon request.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407</p> <p>Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.</p> <p>Board Policy – 006</p>
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