

SECTION: LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: MAY 30, 2007

REVISED: MARCH 30, 2007

BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

006.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
<p>1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>2. Authority 65 P.S. 710 65 P.S. 710.1 65 P.S. 710.1</p>	<p>The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p> <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each regular and special meeting of the Board, and regularly scheduled monthly work session, for residents and taxpayers to comment on official action or deliberation prior to consideration of agenda items by the Board. Comments on non-agenda matters of concern may be permitted during a regularly scheduled board meeting.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Prior to the Call to Order of the regular Board meeting, any individual requesting to address the Board who is not a district resident must submit a request in writing to the Board Secretary 24 hours prior to the regular Board action meeting. The written request should include the individual's name, address, company and/or affiliation, contact information, and the issue of concern.</p> <p>Speakers are requested to use the microphone provided and to give their name, address and the company and/or affiliation, if any.</p> <p>If a resident has a question about or problems relating to the operation of the schools, s/he is expected to contact the appropriate administrator as per Policy 906 prior to addressing the board.</p>

<p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p>	<p>Persons appearing before the Board are reminded, as a point of information, that the Board members are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters; thus, questions may be directed to the Board, but answers may be deferred pending consideration by the Board.</p> <p>The Board vests in its President or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above.</p> <p>Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to two (2) minutes duration. At the discretion of the board president, an additional minute may be granted in individual situations.</p> <p>No participant may speak more than once on the same topic.</p> <p>The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant, request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum, request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting, call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting, or waive these rules with the approval of the Board.</p> <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.</p> <p>No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.</p> <p>Comments relating to specific individuals that may implicate personnel matters or a potential disciplinary response are not permitted in public sessions.</p>
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