

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Participation in Board Meetings

Governing Board of Trustees' meetings are not public meetings. Other than closed sessions, however, they are meetings of the Governing Board of Trustees held in public.

The Board's goal is to be responsible and accountable to the community. Community opinion should not blindly rule, but it does and should count. Consequently, the Board invites members of the public to address it on matters of interest to individuals or the community.

The Board encourages speakers to ask questions and to discuss items, rather than personalities. The Board cannot act on complaints not scheduled on the meeting agenda. The Board will refer speakers with complaints about particular programs or employees to the Superintendent's Office to file a formal complaint. The Board will not hear personal attacks on employees or others, name-calling, or ridicule.

The district asks members of the public to refrain from private discussion while others are speaking and to show respect to speakers.

Individuals who wish to address the Board on any item on the agenda are encouraged to complete a Comment Request card identifying the item. Following the district administration's introduction and clarification of the item, the Board President will recognize individuals who submitted Comment Request cards.

Individuals who wish to speak on topics not on the agenda are encouraged to complete a Comment Request card. When the Board reaches the "Communications" item on the agenda, the Board President will recognize individuals who submitted cards. The Board cannot legally act on items not scheduled on the meeting agenda, but topics introduced under "Communications" may be placed on a future agenda.

Individuals who wish to place items on the Board meeting agenda shall follow the procedure in Board Policy 9365. Lengthy discussions and formal presentations should be placed on the agenda rather than raised under "Communications."

In order to conduct Board business in a reasonable manner and time frame, the Board may limit discussion of any matter. The Board may set a reasonable time limit for each item and for each speaker. The Board President may limit repeat statements from the same individual on any item and may ask a speaker's supporters to limit their statements to presentation of new arguments or material.

Legal Reference: California Education Code
35145.5 Public Participation in School District Board Meetings

Reference: Board Policy
8340 Meetings
9365 Construction of Agenda

Policy Adopted: March 2, 1966
Revised Policy Adopted: March 23, 1972
Revised Policy Adopted: June 9, 1977
Revised Policy Adopted: December 14, 1982
Revised Policy Adopted: June 20, 1995
Revised Policy Adopted: April 15, 1997