

PURPOSE:

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on District issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on matters of interest. The Board will accordingly permit members of the public to review all Board public meetings agendas at the Board Office, prior to all scheduled Board meetings, or on the District internet site, and to offer comments at all public meetings of the Board.

The Board shall not act on items which are not on the agenda, or on which its members do not have full information, unless waived by the Board pursuant to its policy.

PROCEDURE:

Organization and Structure of Public Participation. At pre-agenda (workshop) meetings, members of the public will be permitted to comment on each item appearing on the agenda. The Board Presiding Officer shall call for public comments after District administration and personnel have presented all agenda items and Board members have exhausted their questions. When no member of the public wishes to be heard on the item, the Presiding Officer shall close the public comment portion of the agenda item and shall entertain no additional public comment on those items.

At the regular monthly meetings, public comment shall be invited at two (2) separate times on the agenda.

1. Before the Board takes official action on agenda items, members of the public shall be invited to comment on agenda items not presented at the pre-agenda (workshop) meeting; and
2. After the Board has acted on the entire agenda, members of the public shall be invited to comment on any matter relating to the District. From time to time, items may appear at both pre-agenda and agenda meetings. However, public discussion may be taken at the agenda meeting at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

At meetings (special) other than pre-agenda and regular meetings, members of the public will be invited to comment on issues before the Board. Public comment will follow any presentation on the issue offered by District administrators, personnel and any questions posed by Board members. At the beginning of any such meeting, the Presiding Officer will announce the manner in which public comment will be entertained. Public comment shall be limited to the item(s) for which the meeting was called.

At any meeting of the Board, public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the Presiding Officer and must preface his or her comments by an announcement of his or her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to a duration of three (3) minutes;

3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;
4. All statements shall be directed to the Presiding Officer; no participant may address or question the Board members individually; and
5. That portion of the meeting following agenda business during which the public is invited to participate shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.

The Presiding Officer may:

1. Interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, duplicative, 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 order and progress of the meeting;
4. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
5. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

Date Adopted:

Date Revised: