

NORTHERN LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: May 12, 1987

REVISED: September 8, 2015

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
<p>1. Purpose</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. 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.</p> <p>The Board adopts this policy to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p>
<p>2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1</p>	<p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern in official action before the Board prior to official action by the Board. The agenda shall include an item at the beginning for public comments on specific agenda items and at the end for public comments on items off the agenda.</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>3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006</p>	<p>Whenever issues identified by the participant are to be addressed under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Board requires that public participants be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District residents, taxpayers, employees or students, 2. Anyone representing a group in the community or school district, 3. A representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, or 4. Upon a majority vote of the Board members present, anyone else with an interest in a contemplated action of the Board.

All individuals wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable. Individuals may comment on agenda and non-agenda items when the agenda allows.

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, the topic they wish to address, and group affiliation, if applicable. It is the intent of the Board to conduct meetings in an orderly and expeditious manner.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to four (4) minutes duration. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, irrelevant, or for other appropriate cause.
2. Request any person 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 for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
5. Waive these rules upon a majority vote of the Board members present.

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.

No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The meeting agenda shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

Board Policy – 006