
POLICY ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board of Directors (“Board”) meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board’s jurisdiction (e.g., on charter school matters). The Board provides for public participation at meetings in accordance with this policy.

Brown Act and Charter Schools Act

Board meetings are called, held, and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (“Brown Act”) and the Charter Schools Act. The notice and agenda for each Board meeting will be publicly available and posted in advance of the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act in a location that is freely accessible to the public and on the school’s website. The calendar for regular meetings of the Board is also posted on the school’s website.

Members of the public may attend each Board meeting in person, or they may participate and address the Board through an online platform, such as Zoom, or by telephone. Meetings of the Board with respect to charter school operations shall be called, held and conducted in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. .

Members of the public may also view Board meetings after-the-fact. An audio and/or video recording of each Board meeting will be posted on the school’s website.

Addressing the Board

In order to conduct Board meetings and business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board requires that public comments comply with the following procedures:

1. Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on any agenda item, and will have such opportunity either before or during the Board's consideration of the item.
2. At a regular meeting, members of the public may bring before the Board any matter that is within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Board (e.g., charter school matters), even matters that are not listed on the agenda. At a special meeting, the Board may restrict public comments to only those matters listed on the agenda. Members of the public shall make such comments during the time designated on the agenda at the regular or special meeting.. Please note that the Board cannot take any action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law.
3. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the president and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits. Individual speakers shall be allowed up to three (3) minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item.
4. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. The Board president has discretion to adjust (i.e., increase or decrease) the time allowed for public comments, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The

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president may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add.

5. In order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Board, any member of the public who utilizes a translator shall be provided at least twice the allotted time to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.
6. The Board president may rule on the appropriateness of a topic, and has discretion to indicate the suitable time and place when it should be presented or to inform the commenter of the appropriate complaint procedure.

Disruptions and Removals

The Board president shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group or any conduct or statements that threaten the safety of any person(s) at the meeting shall be grounds for the Board president to terminate the privilege of addressing the Board.

The Board may remove disruptive individuals from a Board meeting, following a prior warning that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and failure to cease such behavior may result in removal. If the behavior does not promptly cease, the individuals may be removed..

The Board President may also clear the room when meeting order cannot be restored. In this case, members of the media not participating in the disturbance shall be allowed to remain, and individuals not participating in such disturbances may be allowed to remain at the discretion of the Board President.

When such disruptive conduct occurs, the Superintendent/CEO or designee may contact local law enforcement as necessary.

Recording by the Public

Members of the public may record an open Board meeting using an audio or video recorder, still or motion picture camera, cell phone, or other device, provided that the noise, illumination, or obstruction of view does not persistently disrupt the meeting. The Superintendent/CEO or designee may designate locations from which members of the public may make such recordings without causing a distraction.

If the Board President finds that noise, illumination, or obstruction of view related to these activities would persistently disrupt the proceedings, these activities shall be discontinued or restricted as determined by the Board President.