

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Education meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools. Board meetings are generally conducted in public, so that the public can observe its school government in action. The Board meets in private to discuss only a narrow range of legally defined issues. The subjects that can be discussed in an executive session include proposed, pending or current litigation; collective negotiations; medical, financial or employment matters concerning a particular person; the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property; sale of securities; or other subjects allowed under the law. (Refer also to Policy #1540 – Executive Sessions)

The Board of Education welcomes attendance at its meetings by residents, persons who have a business within the boundaries of the school district, and persons who do business with the Board of Education. The Board encourages the expression of their opinions on matters to be considered by the Board.

While the Iroquois Central Board of Education sees itself as a representative body, it also wishes to provide an avenue for all citizens to express their interest and concerns for the schools. Therefore, time is set aside at the beginning of each agenda to provide the “privilege of the floor” to citizens and staff members of the District.

Because the Board has a responsibility to conduct the business of a multi-million dollar educational enterprise in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall require that public participation be limited to a reasonable length. (If a matter is especially controversial, the Board may schedule a special meeting or hearing)

A period of “Recognition of Guests” shall be listed on each meeting agenda. Any person wishing to address the Board must make a written request prior to the meeting. A public participation form and meeting agendas are available at the District’s Central Administrative Office through the Superintendent’s Administrative Assistant. Agendas will be available the Friday morning before each regularly scheduled Monday meeting. Agendas are also posted on the Iroquois website. Speakers who read from prepared texts are requested to provide a copy of their statement that can be distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall have three minutes to make an oral presentation. Speakers may offer comments related to school operations and programs on the agenda but the Board will not hear personnel complaints against any person associated with the school system. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks pertinent to topics on the agenda. Comments should be kept as brief as possible. It is the role of the President of the Board to judge the appropriateness of the subject.

POLICY

2008

1514

Community Relations

The “Recognition of Guests” period shall be limited to a total of 15 minutes unless the rules are suspended by a vote of the Board. No more than 3 people will be permitted to speak on a single topic, unless waived by a majority of the board.

The Board policy is to listen to the remarks of the speaker, however no actions until such time as members of the staff have reported to the Board on any issues raised by the speaker. The Board will receive all matters for review and consideration and may, if the circumstances permit, direct the Superintendent or District Clerk to notify the speaker, in writing, when the matter may be reported or acted upon at some future Board meeting. The Board may defer action upon requests put before it from the floor, if those requests have not come through the administrative chain of command.

The full agenda of Board meetings shall be made available to the public and press on Friday mornings prior to the Boards Monday meeting.

The President is the spokesperson for the Board and is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting. There is no requirement that a board conduct a public hearing on any subject. If necessary, the Board President is authorized to use any legal measures to enforce these regulations. The board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session as specific in Policy #1540, Executive Sessions.

This practice is intended to provide for public participation and ensure that the Iroquois Board of Education conducts its business in an efficient matter.

Adopted 9/15/08