

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

OPERATING PROCEDURES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

187

Public participation is welcomed and encouraged. Although not required, the Board may designate a public comment time to allow district residents an opportunity to make public comments to the school board at the School District's monthly or special meetings. These meetings however are not public forums/hearings, and ground rules are established for such public comment in order to ensure that the orderly conduct of business is maintained.

Registrant Responsibilities

Any person who wishes to address the Board during a noticed period of public comment at a School Board meeting shall register to speak prior to the start of the meeting in accordance with specified Registration Procedures (Policy 187-Rule).

Each registrant shall adhere to established procedures for the public comment period:

1. Retain all liability for his/her comments and conduct (i.e., the public comment period does not offer any speaker any exemption from legal liability or from other lawful consequences that may result from the speaker's comments or conduct).
2. Wait to speak until he/she has been recognized by the presiding officer. When addressing the District Board, stand and state his/her name.
3. Limit the duration of his/her comments to a maximum of five (5) minutes as defined in Board Policy 187 Rule.
4. Conduct and comments that are obscene, threatening, harassing, defamatory or disorderly will not be allowed. The Board President reserves the right to stop unprofessional discussion.
5. Repetitive appearances before the Board (or a committee) in which the same registrant, or persons acting in concert, present substantially the same information will not be allowed.
6. Engaging in political advocacy with respect to candidates for any elective office will not be allowed.
7. Present their remarks verbally without the use of supporting material that requires any set-up/take-down time or any advance coordination with District multi-media systems (the registrant may provide copies of supplemental written materials to the Board/District).
8. Except where a person registers under established procedures as the spokesperson for a group or where it is permitted as a reasonable accommodation for an individual with special needs, no individual may present his/her public comments by proxy.

Deviation from these parameters may occur upon the consent of the majority of the Board.

Responsibilities of the Presiding Officer and Board

To promote the lawful, orderly and efficient progress of each meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to enforce the requirements of this policy and he/she shall conduct any period of public comment according to established procedures. The presiding officer may call any registrant (or other attendee) to order and

