



Policy: 3.23

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Supersedes: BDDH (Also KD)
Effective: September 8, 2008
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Approved by: Detroit Board of Education

1.0 Policy

The public is invited to attend Board meetings and will be given time to express viewpoints subject to reasonable controls over the length of presentations and the particular time when members of the public will be heard of.

In all instances, the speaker will identify himself or herself before speaking.

The Board will hear members of the public in accordance with the policies below.

Hearings

Persons who desire a hearing before the Board will present their request in writing to the General Superintendent or Board president. The General Superintendent will confer with the petitioner and president of the Board and schedule the hearing at the earliest possible mutually convenient date. A written statement of the matter to be discussed will be sent to Board members before the meeting.

Speaking to Agenda Items

Members of the public may speak to agenda items when recognized by the president. The following rules will apply:

1. Persons will be allowed to speak one time per agenda item.
2. If many individuals wish to speak on an agenda item, each speaker will be limited to two minutes.
3. If few citizens wish to speak on an agenda item, each speaker will be limited to four minutes.

4. The Board president will exercise equitable, reasonable judgment in determining time limits in relation to the number of persons to speak on an agenda item.
5. On volatile issues, cards will be distributed to indicate numerical order of speakers.

Open Forum

During an open period at the end of a Board meeting, members of the public may speak within time limitations on matters of immediate concern within the jurisdiction of the Board. The open forum period will be listed on the agenda.

Authority of President

The president is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and will rule on such matters as time limits and pertinence of the topic to Board affairs.

If an immediate response to a question raised by a member of the public is possible, the president may reply or ask the General Superintendent or a committee chairman to do so. Otherwise questions will be referred to the General Superintendent and/or the appropriate Board committee for investigation and later response.

Attachments to Policy 3.23: None

Legal References: MCLA § 380.485
 MCLA § 380.1808
 MCLA § 15.263
 OAG § 5183, 1977-78
 OAG § 5218, 1977

Labor Contract References: None