

COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: February 5, 1998

REVISED: June 19, 2008

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
<p>1. Purpose 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq</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.</p>
<p>2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710, 710.1</p>	<p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide two (2) periods for public participation at every open meeting of the Board and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings to include limiting public comment to no more than three (3) minutes per individual.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006</p>	<p>The presiding officer at each public Board meeting will follow the rules of the Board for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy and Policy 006.</p> <p>The presiding officer shall be guided by the rules established by the Board.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines Pol. 006</p>	<p>Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the Board Agenda, provided however, that the public may be afforded added time for public comment when an agenda item is added to the preprinted Board Agenda, prior to a vote by the Board.</p> <p>All persons wishing to participate in a public Board meeting may be required to register their intent with the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting and include name and address of the participant, group affiliation, if appropriate, and topic to be addressed.</p> <p>Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name and municipality of residence.</p> <p>Visitors shall direct their comments to the President of the Board.</p> <p>A visitor who may wish to distribute materials to the Board shall furnish those materials to a designated representative of the Board to include the Director of Business Affairs or Director of Secondary Education.</p>

No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers or district personnel in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
4. Call a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available at the meetings and made available on the Council Rock web site (www.crsd.org).

Recording Devices

Electronic recording devices may be utilized during the time the meeting is in general session provided that:

1. Placement and/or operation of the recording device does not detract from the normal operation of the meeting.
2. The device is completely self-contained and self-powered.
3. No disruptive noises and/or lighting devices may be used to facilitate the recording.
4. Placement of the device does not deny a seat or other appropriate place of observation to anyone legally in attendance.
5. The Board Secretary shall note in the minutes the name of the person recording the meeting and the purpose of the recording as a reference point for future use.

	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407</p> <p>Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.</p> <p>Board Policy – 006</p>
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