

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The purpose of a Board meeting is for the Board to conduct the District's business and to deliberate and act upon matters before the Board unless the Board is specifically conducting a public forum. The public is encouraged to attend and to observe meetings of the Board and to participate whenever a public forum is being held for the purpose of receiving public input.

During portions of the Board's regular business meetings an opportunity shall be provided for members of the public to make comments regarding school related matters that appear as an action item on the posted agenda. To make such comments, members of the public are to complete the required form and submit it to the Clerk of the Board no less than 15 minutes before the meeting is called to order. Individuals or groups wishing to speak during the public comment period must provide the following information, in writing on the form provided, in order to speak before the board:

- Name of the individual;
- The agenda action item(s) the individual wishes to address;
- The organization the individual represents or is affiliated with, if applicable.

Persons addressing the Board during the "Public Comments" portion of a regular meeting Board meeting shall be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board. If a group has requested to address the Board on a particular subject, the group will select one representative speaker for the group and will be allowed ten (10) minutes to speak collectively on behalf of the group's members. Groups consisting of three (3) or more persons shall designate a spokesperson who shall speak for and represent the group. Generally, a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed for the public comment period. If an extremely large number of requests to speak are received, the Board President may extend the total time limit for comments.

The District provides various grievance and complaint procedures for addressing concerns and complaints. Therefore, to avoid circumvention of those procedures and ensure fairness to all parties, no person will be allowed to place an item on the agenda or speak on the following matters:

1. Any issue involved in pending litigation or any investigation filed with an outside agency wherein the District, any employee, or the Board is a party;
2. Any pending grievances or complaints involving employees or students;
3. An employee disciplinary action, including suspension, demotion, non-reemployment or termination;
4. Any student suspension or appeal of a student suspension.

Persons addressing the Board shall not be permitted to engage in defamatory conduct or criticize individuals and shall not engage in disruptive behavior.

Board members and the District's administrative staff shall not respond to questions or comments from the public since doing so could be in violation of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. The Board will not take any action on an item addressed by the public unless such item is properly on the agenda as an action item or is properly considered new business as defined by law.

**CROSS REFERENCE: Policy GF**

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §5-118**