

CENTRAL FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: February 12, 2002

REVISED:

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
<p>1. Purpose 65 P.S. 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. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the district and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.</p>
<p>2. Authority 65 P.S. 710 65 P.S. 710.1</p>	<p>The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meetings and to maintain order.</p> <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.</p> <p>The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</p>
<p>65 P.S. 710.1</p>	<p>If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006</p>	<p>The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures and the organizational structure of the district.</p>

To assure that public participation will not disrupt the time needed to accomplish required business, the Board establishes the following procedures:

1. The person who wishes to speak shall first seek recognition by the Board President. When such recognition is accorded the speaker shall identify him/herself and state the nature of the matter s/he wishes to bring before the Board.
2. The Board President shall then rule whether the subject in question is appropriate and suitable to the time. Should the President rule against discussion of the subject at that time s/he shall inform the speaker of a time when the Board will hear him/her or the Board President shall refer the speaker to an appropriate staff member.
3. Interested persons wishing to insure the opportunity to be heard at a particular Board meeting shall present a written request to the Superintendent defining the nature of the matter to be brought before the Board. Such requests received in advance of the distribution of the agenda for the regular meeting to the Board will be placed on the agenda for that meeting.
4. Upon convening each Board meeting, the Board President shall determine whether or not there are persons who wish to address the Board. When such persons are present, the Board shall set an appropriate time during the meeting when it will provide the opportunity for the person(s) to speak. In the interest of time, presentations by interested parties on any one subject shall be limited.

Teachers, principals and other employees of the district are encouraged to attend Board meetings. Should such persons desire an audience with the Board they shall request the same in accordance with Board policies and the provisions of existing employee contracts. On the other hand, employees in attendance at meetings shall not be expected to respond to Board or administrative questions which relate to (a) the propriety of their actions in matters under discussions (b) which could involve their personal or professional reputations. In such matters, the Board and the administration shall respect the legal rights of the employee and insure the employee due process of law.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.

<p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p> <p>Board Policy 006</p>	<p>The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant, request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum, request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting, call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting, and waive these rules with the approval of the Board.</p> <p>No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.</p>
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