



YOUNG SCHOLARS
CHARTER SCHOOL

Public Participation in Board Meetings

Purpose

The Board of Trustees 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 School and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

Authority

The Board adopts this Policy to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.

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 public comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Board prior to official action by the Board.

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.

When an item is added to the agenda after the public comment period has ended, the Board shall offer a further public comment opportunity limited to the added item(s).

Delegation of Responsibility

The presiding officer at each open Board meeting shall follow Board Policy for the conduct of open meetings. Where the presiding officer's ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those members of the Board of Trustees present and voting.

Guidelines

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.

Individuals wishing to participate in an open Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting and shall include the name and place of residence of the participant, topic to be addressed, and group affiliation, if applicable.

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes' duration.

The presiding officer or designee may:

- Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement exceeds the time limit, is not related to the Board's business or matters that are or may come before the Board, or is otherwise not protected by the First Amendment.
- request any individual to leave the meeting when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
- Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a person when the person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
- Call a recess or adjourn to another time when circumstances arise which prevent the orderly conduct of the meeting.
- Limit the time available for public participation as the presiding officer deems appropriate in order for the Board to conduct its business in an orderly, effective and efficient manner. This may include limiting the total time permitted for public participation, limiting the time allocated to each speaker, or adjourning the meeting without a final public comment period, provided that sufficient public comment has been permitted prior to official action taken by the Board.

Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at open meetings.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.

No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.