

These procedures apply to periods of public comment that are included on the public notice of a regular or special meeting of the Board. A District committee may also use these procedures should it be advantageous to include a public comment period be at any of its meetings. A committee may also establish its own procedures provided that the procedures are lawful and consistent with applicable Board policy and with any specific directives issued by the Board.

Placement of Periods of Public Comment on the Agenda

At any Board meeting at which there is a publicly-noticed period of public comment, the period of public comment shall be listed on the agenda prior to other substantive agenda items, except for any minor and routine items of business that generally open such a meeting (e.g., approval of the minutes of a previous meeting).

Registration Procedures

Starting no earlier than 20 minutes prior to the time that the meeting in question is scheduled to convene, persons interested in providing comments to the Board in connection with the meeting may register to (1) simply provide a written comment to the Board; and/or (2) address the Board as a speaker.

The District shall provide a registration form, which shall be numbered and which shall require the registrant:

- a. To specify his/her name, municipality of residence, and relationship to the district (e.g., parent, taxpayer, student, employee, other);
- b. To indicate whether he/she wishes to provide a written comment to the Board (space shall be provided on the form) or wishes to address the Board as a speaker;
- c. To specify the topic(s) he/she intends to address and whether his/her comments pertain to one or more of the noticed agenda items of the meeting, or to some other topic/issue; and
- d. To specify whether he/she is acting as a designated spokesperson for a group of three or more named individuals who are also present at the meeting.

At the registrant's option, he/she may provide a contact telephone number or an email address.

Registration shall be considered closed when the meeting is called to order.

Time Limits

The public comment period will usually be held to a maximum of 30 minutes, not to exceed five minutes for each speaker.

Procedures for Recognizing Registrants

Where the number of registrants at any meeting exceeds the potential maximum the Board may:

- a. Elect to permit all remaining registrants to present their comments at that point in the meeting; or
- b. Close the public comment session and direct all remaining registrants to either return at a future meeting or submit written comments to the District Administrator who will ensure that they are circulated to the members of the Board;

The presiding officer or his/her designee shall recognize registrants in the number order of their written registrations. Upon being recognized, each registrant will approach the podium or microphone, state his/her name, municipality of residence, and relationship to the district (or, if none, their reason for their interest in speaking), and proceed to the substance of his/her remarks. If a registrant is not present at the time he/she is recognized by the presiding officer, he/she forfeits the opportunity to address the Board at that meeting.

As one exception to these procedures, the presiding officer may give first priority to any student registrants.

Approved: 05/06/13