

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: November 29, 1985

REVISED: May 21, 2008

OLD FORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
1. Purpose	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.
2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710, 710.1	In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide a period for public participation and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006	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 Pol. 006.
4. Guidelines	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>Residents are always welcome and encouraged to attend official meetings of the Board. The President will recognize persons who wish to address the Board. Persons who have submitted a written request prior to the meeting being called to order shall be recognized by the President during the first public participation segment. The formal request must set forth the purpose and nature of the presentation.</p> <p>Those persons who have not asked for time on the agenda will be given opportunity to speak after scheduled business is completed and after persons with written requests to address the Board have been accommodated. Recognition of the speaker and the topic to be discussed by those without prior notice will be at the discretion of the President of the Board. The President will not permit the speaker to use the forum as time for harassment of individuals, of Board, or of staff.</p> <p>All persons who speak at Board meetings shall come to the podium when recognized; state their name and the subject matter to be brought before the Board.</p>

The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district or anyone having registered a legitimate interest in a contemplated action of the Board; anyone representing a group in the community or school district; any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board; any district employee; or any district student.

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

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

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.

Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Board.

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

The meeting agenda shall be distributed to the press and public following approval of the Board President.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

Board Policy – 006