

POLICY

1994

3220

Community Relations

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXPRESSION AT MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board shall be conducted in public, and the public has the right to attend all such meetings. Public expression at such meetings shall be encouraged and a specific portion of the agenda shall provide for this privilege of the floor. At its discretion, the Board may invite visitors to its meetings to participate in the Board's discussion of matters on the agenda.

The Board President will be responsible for recognizing speakers, who shall properly identify themselves; for maintaining proper order; and or adherence to any time limits set.

Unless otherwise changed by majority decision of the Board, the following guidelines will be used for Privilege of the Floor:

- Public comment can be ended if policy and procedure is not followed.
- An overall time limit of 15 minutes per Privilege of the Floor. Time can be added in 5 minute increments by decision of the Board.
- A time limit per speaker of 3 minutes. This time cannot be yielded to someone else.
- District Residents are given the opportunity to speak first.
- Speakers must identify themselves and their town of residence.
- Comments that repeat are discouraged in order to allow as many topics to be covered as possible.
- Speakers on opposing views of an issue will be encouraged before those speaking supporting the same view (for a given topic)
- Multiple topics will be heard before returning to supporting/opposing views of a single topic.
- People in-person at the meeting have priority over those who may connect virtually, IF virtual connection is possible, AND IF comments in virtual connection are allowed.
- If virtually connected, attendees in this manner must identify themselves with their full name and town as their virtual connection ID. They must also show their image if they are going to speak.
- Those wishing to speak are reminded that this is a business meeting of the Board held in public; it is not a public meeting.
- People wishing to speak may be required to sign in indicating their name, town, affirming that they are a District resident, and indicating the topic upon which they wish to speak.

Adopted: July 11, 1994

Revised: September 12, 2005

Revised: July 11, 2023