

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Board of Education 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.

**Speaking to the Board**

The Board has reserved a time at each regular meeting for interested parties to address the Board "Public Participation". This time has been adopted to provide an opportunity for interested parties to express opinions on district matters. The public meeting is not the time to register complaints about individuals or about items which have not first been addressed through proper communication channels.

The Board has established the following procedure for "Public Participation".

- a) Persons addressing the Board shall first be recognized by the Board President.
- b) The speaker shall provide his or her name to the Board.
- c) Speakers who read from a prepared text are encouraged to present copies of that text to Board members prior to speaking, or to the District Office within twenty-four (24) hours after the meeting.
- d) The Board President may limit discussion at his or her discretion.
- e) Public participation is for Belleville Henderson students, parents of Belleville Henderson students, District residents, Belleville Henderson taxpayers, and school personnel. All others who wish to address the Board must request permission to do so by submitting a copy of their remarks to the District Office fourteen (14) days before the regular Board meeting. This will be distributed to Board members prior to the meeting.
- f) Members of the Board will listen to the remarks of the speakers, but action will not be taken until such time as the Board is properly prepared to address issues raised by the speaker.
- g) The Board will respond to all communications by whatever means seems most appropriate.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (Cont'd.)**

The Board reserves the right to enter into executive session.

Public Officers Law Article 7  
Education Law § 1708  
Public Officers Law §§ 100, and 101.1

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