

207 PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. PURPOSE

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters related to the School District. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order for the Board of Education to efficiently receive public input on matters related to the School District, the procedures set forth in this policy are established.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Public Hearings

Public hearings are required by law to be held concerning certain issues, including but not limited to, school closings (Minn. Stat. § 123B.51), education district establishment (Minn. Stat. § 123A.15), and agreements for secondary education (Minn. Stat. § 123A.30). Additionally, other public hearings may be held by the Board of Education on school district matters at the discretion of the Board of Education.

B. Notice of Public Hearings

Public notice of a public hearing required by law shall be given as provided by the enabling legislation. Public notice of other hearings shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the Board of Education.

C. Public Participation

The Board of Education retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the Board of Education by completing the appropriate request card.

1. Format of Request: If required by the Board of Education, a written request of an individual or a group to address the Board of Education shall contain the name and address of the person or group seeking to address the Board of Education. It shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.

2. Time Limitation: The Board of Education retains the discretion to limit the time for each presentation as needs dictate.

3. Groups: The Board of Education retains the discretion to require that any group of persons who desire to address the Board of Education designate one representative or spokesperson. In the event that the Board of Education requires the designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other person in the group will be recognized to address the Board of Education, except as otherwise determined by the Board of Education.

4. Privilege to Speak: A Board of Education member should direct any remarks or questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the Board of Education, or the proceedings may be directed to leave.

5. Personal Attacks: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the Board of Education are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the Board of Education.

6. Limitations on Participation: Depending upon the number of persons in attendance seeking to be heard, the Board of Education reserves the right to impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary in order to provide an orderly, efficient, and fair opportunity for those present to be heard.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123A.15 (Education District Establishment)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (School Closings)