

New Castle Community School Corporation

Bylaws & Policies

0160 - MEETINGS

0167.3 **Public Participation at Board Meetings**

The School Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on Corporation matters.

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Superintendent no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. name and address of the participant;
- B. group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be approved by the Superintendent and the Board President.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board may provide a period for public participation and publish procedures to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the procedures of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted during the "communication" portion of the agenda concerning agenda items. A time will also be set aside at the end of the meeting to receive public comments.
- B. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.

- C. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to two (2) minutes duration.
- D. No participant may speak more than once on a topic.
- E. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- F. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous repetitive, or harassing;
 - 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 - 4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - 5. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

Public participation during the "communication" portion and the "public comments" portion of the meeting shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes respectively unless otherwise determined by the Board.

I.C. 5-14-1.5-1

Revised 7/97

Revised 12/12/11

