

Dell Rapids School District #49-3

Policies and Regulations Code: B – School Board Governance & Operations



BDDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

School Board meetings are open to the public. A meeting “open to the public” is a meeting at which the public may observe elected representatives conduct business (as compared to a “public meeting” where the public participates in the meeting). The Board of Education invites and welcomes citizens of the district to attend its sessions so they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. The Board of Education also invites and welcomes public comments and suggestions. In order to allow for public comments and suggestions and also in order that the Board may conduct its meeting in an orderly and efficient manner, the procedure for public participation at Board meetings is as follows:

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Any individual or delegation (with one person being the spokesperson for the delegation) who desires to comment regarding an agenda item, is asked to present the “request to speak” to the superintendent, the business manager or the Board president. The request may be communicated orally prior to the meeting or in written form.
- Persons wishing to speak during the Public Comment portion in the agenda will be afforded the opportunity to speak on items on the agenda (in the order in which they appear on the agenda).
- Each person will be granted 5 minutes to present comments to the Board. A person who speaks to the Board but who does not use all of his/her time may yield the remainder of their time to any other person (whether or not the other person has signed up to make comments).
- Upon receiving a request for an extension of time from the speaker, the Board upon a motion being made and passed by a majority of the Board members, may grant an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 additional minutes.
- The Board, should a number of persons wish to address the Board on the same agenda item, or should the comments become repetitious, may shorten the time for comments in order that all persons may be heard and still allow the Board to proceed to conduct its business.
- The Board, through a majority of Board members present, may request an individual (or approve a request from an individual) to speak to the Board although the person may not have requested an opportunity to speak to the Board prior to the meeting.

Public Requests For Specific Board Action:

- Prior to the meeting being called to order, any person or delegation (with one person being the spokesperson for the delegation) making a specific request to the Board which would require Board action are to present their request in writing (what is requested and why, and signed by the person making the request) to the superintendent or business manager at least 7 days before the Board meeting in order to allow the superintendent to convey the request to all Board members and allow for any time for compiling information should the same be needed. The request shall be placed on the agenda under New Business.
- Requests made less than 7 days before the Board meeting or at the Board meeting shall be tabled until the next Board meeting unless in the opinion of the Board the request must be addressed immediately

because of the time factor involved. Upon a motion being made and passed by a majority of Board members present, the item may be added to the agenda under New Business.

- A person or spokesperson for a delegation that has submitted a specific request to the Board for Board action (and the request is properly on the agenda) will be granted 10 minutes to explain his/her request to the Board. Upon receiving a request for an extension of time from the speaker, the Board upon a motion being made and passed by the majority of Board members present may grant an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 additional minutes.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 1-25-1

ADOPTED: 01-2003

REVIEWED: 03/2016