

Bylaws

EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

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In general, regular and special meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public and representatives of the media. By resolution at the public meeting, the Board will exclude the public from those parts of a meeting which deal with matters held confidential in accordance with law.

The Board welcomes participation of interested organizations and individuals and will schedule time as appropriate for the public to speak. The opportunity for public comment on any topic related to the Board's conduct of the schools will be provided at every regular meeting of the Board of Education and will appear on each agenda near the beginning of the meeting.

A public forum will be a maximum of twenty minutes in length unless there are unusual circumstances. Those appearing at a public forum will be allowed three minutes to speak and no one will be allowed to speak at the same forum until all those wishing to speak have had their turn.

Comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting. The President of the Board will determine the format for the public portion of the special meeting.

The Board will not permit unnecessary or undesirable identification of district pupils at public or Board of education meetings, particularly when the pupil is subject to disciplinary action, or is educationally handicapped.

The Board of Education, whenever possible, will use Board of Education meetings throughout the year to present information and invite public discussion. The items to be presented at such meetings must include:

1. Discussion of state rules and local procedures for implementation of district goals.
2. Presentation of audit report.
3. Presentation of budget.
4. Report on student progress.
5. Annual plans for special education, bilingual/ESL, and basic skills programs.



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At the public forum, a participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;

The presiding officer may:

- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- c. 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;
- d. 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; and
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8
N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 22 November 2004
Revised: 18 August 2008

