

Richmond School District Policy Statement
Public Participation at Board Meetings

Policy #: 187

All regular and special meetings of the Board will be open to the public and will be properly noticed through posting and notification of the press, with the exception of duly noticed closed sessions of the Board.

A public forum shall be scheduled at the beginning of the Board meeting for the purpose of hearing public comments on items included on the meeting agenda. The Board may set a time limit on the length of this period and/or a time limit for individual speakers.

The purpose of this policy provision is to maintain time schedules and efficiency during Board meetings. It should be clearly understood that this provision in no way diminishes the right of citizens to attend Board meetings. The limitations expressed here are only for those persons who wish to discuss business at a meeting. If a citizen wishes to address the Board they must complete a public participation form prior to the start of the meeting. Each speaker should receive recognition from the presiding officer and then state his/her opinions briefly and concisely.

Each person when called upon will give their name and address and the name of any group they represent. Speakers shall be as brief as possible and only speak once during the period for public comment.

The Board President will be responsible for recognizing all speakers, for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to any time limits set. The Board invests in the President the authority to recognize members of the public as the Board conducts its meeting when, in the President's judgments, it is in the best interest of the school district.

The Board President may terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to established rules for public participation at Board and committee meetings, who speaks in a threatening or profane manner, or whose conduct is disruptive and impedes the Board's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and timely fashion.

Any additional opportunities for public participation during Board meetings must be expressly authorized by a motion and vote of the Board.

The Board shall not discuss or act upon any item of business not included in the public notice of the meeting, except as specifically authorized by law.

Legal References:

- Section 19.81 [state policy on open meetings]
- Section 19.83(2) [discussion during period of public comment]
- Section 19.84(2) [public notice of board meetings, including public comment period]
- Section 19.85 [exemptions to open meetings]

Approved: 12/10/01
Revised: 5/14/07, 11/14/16