

# NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN  
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: December 10, 2003

REVISED:

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
<p>1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p>	<p>The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the District and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.</p>
<p>2. Authority 65 P.S. 710  65 P.S. 710.1   65 P.S. 710.1</p>	<p>The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p> <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action, or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.</p> <p>The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</p> <p>If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006</p>	<p>The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board Members present and voting.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures and the organizational structure of the District.</p> <p>The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this District.</p> <p>District residents and taxpayers who request to speak about an agenda issue must indicate on a sign-in sheet their name, address, and the agenda item they wish to address.</p>

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if applicable.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration.

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

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement extends beyond the allotted time period, is personally directed towards a Board Member, and serves no purpose other than to harass, annoy, is abusive, obscene, irrelevant, or not germane to any of the items listed on the agenda.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
4. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the public at the meetings.