

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: August 19, 2002

REVISED: October 18, 2021
May 16, 2022

	903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS
1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq	The Board welcomes the attendance of the public at its meetings. The Board encourages public participation and 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 school district and the need for orderly meetings at which to conduct its business in an efficient manner.
2. Authority 65 P.S. 710 65 P.S. 710.1, 712.1 65 P.S. 710.1	The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each public meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Board prior to official action by the Board. Any eligible public participant must register prior to the meeting using the form(s) provided by the school district. 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. When an item is added to the agenda after the public comment period has ended, the Board shall offer a further public comment opportunity limited to the added item.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006	The presiding officer is responsible for the orderly and efficient conduct of the meeting and will rule on the time and suitability of presentations to the School Board. The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where the presiding officer's ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those school directors present and voting.

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	<u>Public Concern</u> Members of the public should first consider whether their problem deserves the attention of the entire Board, administrative staff members, and the assembled public. A contact to a school administrator can usually satisfy most concerns. Appeals to the Board are appropriate if the Superintendent has been unable to resolve a problem. Not all issues may be deemed appropriate for public discussion. The Board may request written correspondence or a private session. References: 24 P.S. 407 65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq., 710, 710.1 712.1, 709, 711 Pol. 006, 906
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