

# SOUTHERN COLUMBIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN  
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: March 8, 1999

REVISED: September 21, 2009

<p>903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS</p>	
<p>1. Purpose 65 P.S. 271 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>The Board encourages the attendance of representatives of interested public groups, school employee groups, students and individual citizens at its Board meetings. The Board believes that factual public information and data, in concert with related information available to the Board, will help serve as a sound basis for carrying out in its policy-making responsibility. However, such extra participation must not hinder or obstruct the Board from carrying out its official duties.</p>
<p>2. Authority</p>	<p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide a period for public participation and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>65 P.S. 271 et seq</p> <p>Pol. 006</p>	<p>The presiding officer at each public Board meeting will follow the rules of the Board for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy and Policy 006.</p> <p>The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the Procedures of this Board, at the discretion of the presiding officer on a given issue, or as required by law.</li> <li>2. 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 these policies and procedures. The Board requires that public participants be residents, taxpayers, employees or students of the District, or an owner or officer of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the District.</li> <li>3. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their</li> </ol>

<p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 271 et seq</p> <p>Board Policy No. 006</p>	<p>comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate.</p> <p>The presiding officer may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.</li><li>2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.</li><li>3. 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.</li><li>4. Call 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.</li></ol> <p>Electronic recording devices and cameras other than those used as official recording devices will be permitted at meetings under rules provided by the Board.</p> <p>No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room or on school grounds without prior approval.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.</p>
--	---