

DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED:

REVISED:

	903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS
1. Purpose	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.
2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1	The Board shall adopt policy 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 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. 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.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006	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.
4. Guidelines	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. The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district or anyone representing a group in the community or school district, any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, any district employee, or any district student.

All individuals wishing to participate in a public Board meeting should register their intent **with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting** and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable.

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.

Upon being recognized by the presiding officer at the meeting, the participant may address the Board for a time period of three (3) minutes. This time period is inclusive of any response given by the Board.

Topics to be addressed at the meeting **may be consolidated and although all topics and participants will be recognized, only one (1) participant will be able to address the Board on the same topic.**

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 is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
4. Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

Any Resident or Taxpayer who tapes the meeting by means of video or audio must sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting and must station the video/audio equipment in a designated area.

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

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

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

Board Policy – 006