

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: June 23, 2004

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</p>	<p>The Board, as a representative body of the district, wishes to provide an avenue for individuals to express interest in and concern for the schools. The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p>
<p>65 P.S. 710.1</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>Residents and taxpayers will be given time to express viewpoints, subject to reasonable controls over the length of presentations and the particular time when residents and taxpayers will be heard.</p> <p>The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</p>
<p>65 P.S. 710.1</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 is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. The presiding officer will rule on such matters as time permits and according to the pertinence of the topic under discussion. 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 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.</p> <p>In all instances, participants will identify themselves before speaking by announcing their name, address, and group affiliation, if applicable.</p> <p>No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.</p> <p>Participants shall be reminded that although requests may be directed to the Board, action shall be deferred pending Board consideration.</p> <p>The Board will take questions and comments under advisement and issue responses after careful deliberations.</p> <p>If an immediate response to a question or comment raised by a member of the public is possible, the presiding officer may reply or ask the appropriate administrator to do so.</p> <p>The presiding officer may: interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting; or waive these rules with the approval of the Board.</p> <p>Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Board.</p> <p>No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.</p>
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<p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p> <p>Board Policy 006</p>	<p><u>Speaking on Agenda Items</u></p> <p>Members of the public may speak on agenda items when recognized by the presiding officer. The following rules will apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The presiding officer will exercise equitable, reasonable judgment in determining time limits in relation to the number of persons to speak on an agenda item.2. On volatile issues, cards will be distributed to indicate the numerical order of speakers.
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