

CODE: A21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Policy

It is the policy of the board to encourage public participation at its meetings from all communities within the district.

Background

Public participation is very important to the successful function of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District. The board wants to carry out its business with the benefit of public input and expertise.

Implementation

Reasonable rules of participation may be used to ensure that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion using civil language and that the business at hand is completed in a timely manner. Such rules may take into consideration such things as length of each speaker's presentation and the number of times each speaker may comment. Statements regarding confidential information and matters appropriate to executive sessions are not appropriate for public discussion. These matters include, but may not be limited to, personnel matters, confidential student matters, discussion of strategy and negotiations for pending claims and litigation, discussion of security, discussion of real estate acquisitions prior to purchase, and discussion of matters that might otherwise result in the disclosure of confidential records or the information contained therein. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to see that statements on these issues are not made in public, and reserves the right to take reasonable steps should a speaker violate this provision.

Persons Who May Address the Board

1. Any district resident.
2. School staff members, students and parents.
3. Individuals who have been requested by the superintendent or the board to present a given subject.
4. Persons who are directly affected by matters on the board agenda.
5. Others at the discretion of the board.

Public Comment

1. The chair will ask for public comments at the appropriate time or times during the meeting.
2. When the number of people wishing to speak is large, the board chair may choose to use a speakers' list.
 - Parameters:
 1. Comments are limited to two minutes in length.
 2. May not be redundant in nature.

3. No uncivil language will be tolerated.
4. In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, public comment is a time for the board to listen and to learn from the community. Although it is not a time for the board to respond and engage in conversation, it will potentially inform future agenda items and/or action by the board.

Date Reviewed April 24, 2023

Date Warned: October 5, 2023

Date Adopted: October 16, 2023

Legal Reference(s): 1 V.S.A. §§310 et seq. (Public meetings)

16 V.S.A. §554 (b) (School board meetings)

Cross Reference: Board Meetings Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Distribution (A2)

Slate Valley Unified Union School District