

# BDDH(1)

## SIoux VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### PUBLIC FORUM AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS REFERENCE SHEET

The Sioux Valley School Board welcomes public participation at Board meetings. However, such meetings are intended for the consideration of matters of education policy and implementation, and not for the discussion of broad political or social issues.

*Before the meeting is called to order, an individual who desires to speak at a school board meeting must verbally or in writing inform the Superintendent or the Board President of the person's desire to speak and the topic upon which the person intends to speak.*

Public Forum time is reserved for verbal or written communications from patrons to address the board on agenda or non-agenda items. Negative comments about employees or students cannot be accepted in this forum. Members of the public have an opportunity to express their views; however, this time is not meant to be a question/answer session with the board and administration.

The Board will entertain comments from the public on any issue with a time limit of **five** minutes per person. A speaker can request an extension of an additional five minutes to speak if he/she feels that five minutes is not sufficient; however, it is the board's discretion whether or not to allow it. A speaker cannot request additional time on behalf of someone that is not in attendance at the meeting.

Should a number of persons wish to address the school board on the same agenda item, or should the comments become repetitious, in the Board President's discretion, he/she may shorten the time for comments to **two** minutes per person or request that the group appoint a spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group, thus allowing a total of **ten** minutes for the spokesperson to address the board on behalf of the group.

The Board aims to maintain a respectful and appropriate environment during school board meetings, and seeks to uphold the values of professionalism, decorum, and sensitivity in all discussions and presentations.

Persons speaking during the Public Forum time at a school board meeting shall not cause public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm to the school board or any person, and shall not engage in threatening behavior, make unreasonable noises, be disruptive, boisterous, argumentative, or threatening, shall not make comments which are disrespectful to one or more persons, and shall not use profanity. If this occurs, the Board President may issue a warning or terminate the right of a person to speak. If deemed

necessary, the Board President may contact local law enforcement to have a person removed from the school board meeting.

In regard to curriculum or library materials, the Board recognizes the inherent difference between encountering obscene/offensive material while reading as an individual and simply having the option to discontinue reading; and being read to and having to listen to obscene/offensive material in a public meeting. It is the responsibility of all participants to ensure that any materials read aloud during meetings are free from sexually explicit content, profanity, explicit language or obscenities.

- An individual providing public comment on curriculum or library materials that contain sexually explicit content or profanity has the option of (1) reading the selection aloud but skipping over such language, or (2) providing to the board president a copy of the materials the individual believes to be objectionable which will be circulated to other board members.
- An individual who presents profane language or sexually explicit material during a school board meeting will be reminded of the protocol by the presiding officer (board president), and if the individual continues after a clear warning, the presiding officer may tell the individual that their opportunity to provide comments has ended for failure to follow the protocol.

**Reference:**

Complete board policies regarding Public Forum at School Board Meetings and Public Complaints about the Curriculum, Instructional Materials, or Library Books/Materials can be found on the district's website.

Policy BDDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings

Policy KLB: Public Complaints about the Curriculum, Instruction Materials, or Library Books/Materials

Approved: 10/09/23