

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education (the Board) encourages public participation on school-related matters at Board meetings. The Board shall set aside a period not to exceed thirty minutes for public comment on agenda items and other District business. The period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson.

Presentations should be as brief as possible. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. Speakers may comment on (1) any agenda item; or (2) any matter related to Bethlehem Central School District (the District) business, during the designated time.

Persons wishing to suggest an agenda item for a future Board meeting should contact the superintendent or the Board. The Board retains complete discretion in setting the meeting agenda.

In public session, the Board will not permit discussion of individual District personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual District personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the superintendent during regular business hours, which will be shared with the Board.

All speakers must conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language; libelous statements; threats of violence; or statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the president and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other District officials only upon the approval of the President. Board members and the superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

The president shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The president shall have the right to discontinue any presentation that violates this policy.

Cross-ref: 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

Ref: Matter of Martin, 32 EDR 381 (1992)  
Appeal of Wittenben, 31 EDR 375 (1992)  
Matter of Kramer, 72 EDR 114 (1951)  
NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government, OML-AO-#2696  
(Jan. 8, 1997) and OML-AO-#2717 (Feb. 27, 1997)

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