

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIAPTION IN BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: June 18, 2012

REVISED: November 15, 2021

# TURKEYFOOT VALLEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

| 903. PUBLIC PARTICIAPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS |  |
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| 1. Purpose                                   | <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>  |
| 2. Authority                                 | <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide a period for public participation and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings. [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 which are or may be before the Board prior to official action by the Board. [2][3]</p> <p>The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</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. [2]</p> <p>When an item is added to the agenda after the public comment period has ended, the Board shall offer a further public comment opportunity limited to the added item(s). [2][3]</p> |
| 3. Delegation of Responsibility              | <p>The presiding officer at each open Board meeting shall follow the rules of the Board for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy and Board Procedure 006. [4] [5]</p>   |

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| <p>4. Guidelines</p> | <p>The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business in the Procedures of this Board.</li><li>2. Each statement made by a member of the public other than those placed on the agenda shall be no longer than three (3) minutes. The portion of the meeting during which participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.</li><li>3. 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 these policies and procedures. The Board requires that public participants be residents 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 employee of the district; or pupil of the district.</li><li>4. All persons wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Superintendent or Board President ten (10) days in advance of the meeting and include name and address of the participant group affiliation of appropriate, and topic to be addressed. These individuals will be placed on the agenda and given up to five (5) minutes to comment.</li><li>5. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation; if appropriate.</li><li>6. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.</li><li>7. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.</li><li>8. The presiding officer may:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.</li><li>b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when the person does not observe reasonable decorum.</li><li>c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when the person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.</li></ol></li></ol> |
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d. Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

e. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

9. Electronic recording devices and cameras other than those used as official recording devices will be permitted at open meetings under rules provided by the Board. [6]

10. No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room or on school grounds without prior approval.

11. The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings. [7]

References:

1. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 710

2. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 710.1

3. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 712.1

4. 24 P.S. 407

5. Pol. 006

6. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 711

7. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 709

65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq

Pol. 906