

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

It is the policy of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board to conduct all meetings in full view of, and with welcomed participation by, the public. However, the School Board reserves the right to recess into or call executive sessions for discussing private matters as provided by State Law. At no time shall actions be taken or resolutions made during executive session.

There are two (2) procedures by which the School Board encourages public participation:

1. Delegations or individuals may submit a request to the Superintendent at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date, stating the matters they wish to take up with the Board. The Superintendent shall attempt to meet with the person(s) requesting to address the School Board to attempt to satisfy the concerns expressed in the written request. If this is not successful, one person may be selected in advance by the delegation to speak to the School Board for not more than ten (10) minutes. An individual will follow this same procedure and will be allowed up to ten (10) minutes to address the School Board. The items that a delegation or individual wish to discuss will be added to the agenda after the 48-hour notice has been given prior to the School Board meeting date and the issue has not been resolved by the Superintendent.
2. An individual wishing to address an agenda item for which a vote shall be taken published on any official School Board meeting agenda for that meeting may appear prior to the School Board meeting starting time and complete a request card to address a single agenda item. That person will be allowed to address the agenda item only prior to the School Board's discussion of an action on the item. A separate request card must be completed for each agenda item to be addressed. The person will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to address a single agenda item. A group or delegation is always encouraged to select a spokesperson.

In the event that the School Board should add an item for which a vote shall be taken to its agenda after the School Board meeting begins, the School Board President shall orally request of the audience whether anyone in attendance would like to speak on the added agenda item. Each person indicating a desire to do so shall be given an opportunity to address the School Board on each agenda item added. The School Board shall delay deliberations on that agenda item until such time as all interested members of the public have had an opportunity to speak.

The President of the School Board or Committee Chairperson will recognize persons at the School Board meetings for the purpose of introducing such persons.

No one under the age of eighteen (18) years of age may address the School Board unless accompanied by his/her parent, guardian, or teacher, except with the approval of the School Board. A person appearing before the School Board shall not discuss any pending motion before the School Board unless the Board votes to hear such discussion.

Boisterous conduct shall not be permitted at any meeting of the School Board, nor shall any defamatory or abusive remarks be tolerated. Any speaker who violates this regulation may have his/her right to speak terminated by the President of the School Board or Committee Chairman. The President or the Committee Chairman shall have the right to remove anyone in attendance at the meeting who interrupts the orderly process of a School Board meeting.

Speakers who wish to address the School Board as candidates for political office will not be granted permission to do so.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH DISABILITIES

The School Board shall allow any member of the public with a disability recognized by the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, or a designated caregiver of such a person, to participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference, and shall facilitate participation by any such person who requests that accommodation prior to the meeting. Members of the public who desire to participate in this fashion shall certify that they meet the definition of a person with a disability recognized under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* when they submit, prior to public meetings, their requests to comment on agenda items and shall comply with the same rules and regulations on speaking applicable to those participating in person at such meetings.

Revised: September, 1997

Revised: October 16, 2008

Revised: August 17, 2023

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' ' 17:81, 42:14, 42:15, 42:16; Board minutes, 9-20-96, 9-18-97, 10-16-08, 8-17-23.