

## **WDC School Board Public Engagement Rules**

### **Public participation in meetings:**

- Comments from the public are restricted to the public forum period.
- School Board meetings are the forum for the Board to conduct the Board's business. While Board meetings are open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, they are not solely a forum for public expression, they are a business meeting for the Board.
- Members of the public are not allowed to participate in board discussion and debate without a specific invitation by the presiding officer. Members of the public will not be allowed to interrupt or blurt out commentary unless recognized by the presiding officer.
- Members of the public shall not applaud, engage in conversation, or engage in other behavior through words or actions that may disrupt the proceedings of board.
- The School Board shall, as a matter of policy, protect the legal rights to privacy and due process of employees of the District. District employees have a legal right to privacy related to their private, confidential, or non-public personnel data as provided by Minnesota Statutes §13.43.
- Persons who wish to address the board during the public comment period must be one of the following; WDC student, WDC parent or guardian, WDC staff member or a resident of the WDC School District. Persons wishing to address the board shall notify the superintendent via email by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the regular school board meeting and provide their name, address, and brief summary of the subject matter they wish to address. If the matter is of a nature that raises data privacy concerns, the requester shall be so notified and encouraged to use other appropriate means to have the matter addressed. If the matter is not of a nature that raises data privacy concerns, the person shall be recognized during the portion of the meeting reserved for public comment.

### **During the public forum period, citizens must:**

- State their name, address, and affiliation to WDC.
- Be recognized by the presiding officer before speaking. Comments are limited to three minutes. The board will hear comments from a maximum of ten people and allot up to 30 minutes for public comment. Groups of citizens wishing to speak on the same topic may be asked to confer and appoint a spokesperson to speak as to the topic, depending upon the time available for public forum and the number of people wishing to speak during the public forum on the same topic. Citizens may not yield their three-minute time allotment to another speaker.

- Direct their remarks to the chair.
- Follow the direction of the chair.

**During forum period, the public is prohibited from:**

- The use of obscene, profane, or threatening language.
- Threatening, loud, or boisterous conduct that disrupts the meeting or the security of the public.
- Defaming or personally attacking others.
- Sharing or discussing private or confidential information about District employees, including private, confidential, or non-public personnel data.
- Members of the public who do not follow the direction of the presiding officer will be warned that further disruptive conduct will result in removal from the meeting. If the conduct continues, the presiding officer may ask the speaker to leave. If the speaker refuses to follow the direction of the presiding officer, the presiding officer may contact law enforcement to have the speaker removed through any lawful means.