



Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.

Policy Statement

SUBJECT: PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/28/16

POLICY NUMBER: BEDH

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 12/2019

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: N/A

DATED: 12/28/16

I. PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

The Governing Board of Education, Inc. recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving member of the public and staff in its meetings. In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the agenda in an effective and efficient manner, a single public comments period will be scheduled at each meeting. It is essential that guidelines be established to define the ground rules for addressing the Board so that all members of the audience clearly understand the parameters of public input. Therefore, the Governing Board of Education, Inc. adopts the following policy statement.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Shonto Governing Board of Education that there shall be reserved section on the agenda at all regular meetings which provides residents and staff with the opportunity to provide public comment

III. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY:

None

IV. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

A. DECORUM AND ORDER AT BOARD MEETINGS

It is the intent of the Governing Board of Education, Inc. that there shall be a reserved section on the agenda at all regular meetings which provides residents and staff with the opportunity to provide public comment.

B. LIMIT ON PARTICIPATION

Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the public input portion of the agenda designated for that purpose. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the Board President.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

At regular meetings, the Board shall allot a specific amount of time to hear persons



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who desire to make comments to the Board. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall complete a form provided for that purpose. That form shall include a space for the speaker's name and the general nature of the comments he/she wishes to make to the Board.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing speakers, maintaining proper order, and adhering to any time limit set.

No presentation shall exceed three (3) minutes, unless the Board president approves more time.

Delegations of more than five persons shall appoint one person to present their views to the Board.

If more than one person wishes to speak on the same topic, the new speaker is limited to providing only new information. The Board President may organize the public comment by topic to maintain focus and order.

District employees may speak on matters of public concern, but complaints or concerns covered by personnel grievance and appeal policies will not be responded to until the grievance or appeal procedures are completed.

The President of the Board has authority to end public input when he or she determines that the nature of the comments has become repetitive. At the conclusion of the public comment period, Board Members may, when recognized, respond to comments made by those who have addressed the Board, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that the matter be placed on a later agenda. The Board shall not discuss or take legal action on any matter raised during public comment unless the matter is properly noticed on the agenda for discussion and legal action.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT GROUND RULES

Persons addressing the Board shall:

1. Confine their comments to matters germane to the business of the Governing Board.
2. Refrain from words or statements which, from their usual construction and common acceptance, are construed as insults and tend to violence or breach of the peace. The Board President is authorized to discontinue a person's



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right to address the Board if, after being called to order, the speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks.

3. Refrain from obscenity, vulgarity, or other breach of respect.
4. Refrain from comments regarding the honesty, character, integrity, or other like personal attributes of any identified individual or group.
5. Comments regarding any pending student discipline or employee grievance matters will not be accepted.

V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

None

VI. REPORTS:

None

VII. FORMS:

See attached Procedure Concerning Complaints and Concern in General

VIII. EXPIRATION:

This policy shall expire in three (3) years unless reapproved.


IX. SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Submitted by: Lemual B. Adson
Superintendent

Date: 12/28/16

Approved: December 28, 2016

Established: _____


Martha Tate, President,
Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.