

SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

POLICY NUMBER: 903
SECTION: COMMUNITY
TITLE: **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS**
DATE ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 2003
DATE LAST REVISED: NOVEMBER 2008

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

PURPOSE

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.

AUTHORITY

The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.

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 before the Board prior to official action by the Board.

The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.

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.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

GUIDELINES

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 those policies and procedures. All individuals wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary days in advance of the meeting and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.
4. Call a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.

REFERENCES:

PA Statute 65 P.S.

701 et seq

Board Policy No. 006