

BYLAW

WALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

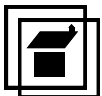
0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall set aside a portion of every Board meeting, the length of the portion to be determined by the Board, for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
2. All statements combined made by a participant shall not exceed five minutes in total within each public comment portion of a meeting as set forth in the Board agenda. No discussion between a participant and respondent shall extend the five minute time limit provided;
3. Any supporting documentation for the Board shall be provided to the Board Secretary by Wednesday preceding the public meeting for dissemination to the Board members. Documentation can be turned in at the public Board meeting for the Board members in the Quantity needed, but will not be discussed at that meeting. Said documents are to be turned into the Board Secretary or designee;
4. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. If a participant elects to speak again, the five minute total limitation as set forth in #2 above still applies to any and all comments;
5. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its President, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting;
6. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;



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7. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
 - e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

8. The Board will not discuss matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current employee or pupil.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 11 September 2012

Revised: 17 September 2013

Revised: 17 December 2013

