

# Regulations

No. 0601

## Board of Education

NUTLEY

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board recognizes the value to school governance 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 provide a period for public participation at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken and shall publish rules to govern such public participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct. The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

a. Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the Order of Business in the Bylaws of this Board. At Regular Meetings, the Board will allot 20 minutes for questions and/or comments related to resolutions on the Agenda and 30 minutes for questions and/or comments relating to other school matters. At Special Meetings the time for public participation will be 30 minutes. The Board reserves the right to modify the amount of time for public participation, if, in the Board's judgment, such action is warranted.

b. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name and address.

(Wording Revised) c. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes, unless, in the judgment of the Board, additional time should be granted.

d. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

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

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## f. The presiding officer may:

1. interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, irrelevant or redundant
2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum
3. 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
4. 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.

g. The Board will not attempt to respond to questions dealing with school practices and procedures unless the questioner has attempted to obtain the answer from the appropriate member(s) of the professional staff through normal channels.

Reference: 2A:170-28; 10:4-12

Date Adopted: 5/21/80

Date Revised: 9/28/87