

Bylaw 8315

Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Board of Education of the Bloomfield Hills School District has adopted the following bylaw establishing rules for public participation at school Board meetings. The Agenda of regular meetings of the Board of Education will provide for public comment:

1. The public participation portion of the meeting is limited to one-half hour, but exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Board president.
2. Each person will be allowed to speak for up to five minutes, except where the number of speakers per topic exceeds the time limit. In those instances, the President of the Board of Education may either reduce the five-minute limit to a three-minute limit for each speaker or the President of the Board of Education may waive the half-hour time limit.
3. Each person wishing to address the Board of Education must identify himself or herself by name and address. If the person is representing an organization or group, the person should indicate whether the comments or presentation represents the official view of the organization or group.
4. All written statements should be given to the Secretary of the Board of Education, so that copies may be made available to members of the Board. All written statements and documents presented by an individual or group to the Board of Education during the meeting are considered public documents.
5. Individuals addressing the Board should take into consideration the rules of common courtesy. The public participation portion of the meeting cannot be used to make personal attacks against a school Board member or school district employee.
6. Individuals who want to publicly address the Board of Education must appear at the Board of Education meeting and participate during the Public Comment

portion of the agenda. Individuals may send letters to the Board of Education; however, the letters will not be read into the record during the public participation portion of the agenda. The prohibition against reading letters during Public Comment may be waived by the President of the Board of Education.

7. Board of Education members may question speakers, but may not answer questions or make statements or commitments in response to issues raised by the public. The public participation of the agenda is not intended for dialogue with the Board of Education. In general, such issues will be referred to the Superintendent for investigation, study, and recommendation or designated as future agenda items for Board of Education consideration.
8. Handling of Complaints: Complaints shall first be considered through proper channels before being considered by the Board. The Board shall not hear complaints at an open meeting about named District personnel unless the named person requests the Board to hear the complaint at an open session.

Legal Reference: Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.263

Policy Reference: 1224 Complaints Regarding School Personnel

Adopted: 8/96

Revised: 6/6/00