

BOARD POLICY

Board Meetings, Public Participation In

The Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education encourages citizens to attend Board meetings and welcomes their views on pertinent subjects related to the school district. Only items on the posted Board agenda, however, will be acted upon at any meeting of the Board.

Any person may attend any open Board meeting or other commission, committee, or advisory body that is established by formal vote of the Board. Attendance at such meetings shall not require the person to register his/her name, to provide other information, to complete a questionnaire, or to fulfill conditions precedent to that attendance.

Persons in attendance who wish to publicly address the Board on matters under consideration or within the Board's jurisdiction shall comply with those requirements established in section B, below.

Community members shall have the opportunity to present items for consideration by the Board of Education at its regular meetings, provided the item submitted relates directly to school district business. For legal notices and postings to be properly met, community initiated items must be presented in written form to the superintendent, or the designee, at least 10 working days prior to the Board meeting at which the item is to be considered.

The following rules are designed to encourage public participation and facilitate oral presentations by members of the community.

A. Public Presentations at Board Meetings

Every agenda for regular Board meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board on items of interest to the public and within the jurisdiction of the Board. All persons directly addressing the Board must state their name and home address prior to their comments, even if a written request has been submitted or that person is well known to the Board.

B. Methods for Addressing the Board

1. Written Request at Meeting

Persons wishing to address the Board of Education are requested to complete a "Request to Address the Board" card available at the guest registration desk identified at all Board meetings. The completed card should be submitted to the superintendent or designee prior to the meeting. Upon recognition by the Chair, the person wishing to address the Board should move to the speaker's podium, state his/her name and home address, then proceed with his/her comments.

2. Written Requests Prior to Meeting

Persons may request the opportunity to address the Board by stating in a letter to the Board of Education or the superintendent. The request must indicate the subject of remarks to be made. Written requests will be honored at the next appropriate meeting following receipt of the request. Oral presentations at the Board meeting will follow the procedure outlined in paragraph 1 above.

3. Unwritten Requests to Address the Board

Persons may request to address an agenda item under consideration by the Board during the meeting. Recognition of such requests is, however, at the discretion of the Chair. To be recognized, the person is requested to stand and wait to be recognized. If recognized, the person should move to the speaker's podium, state name and home address, then proceed with appropriate comments.

C. Time Limit for Speakers

Persons addressing the Board shall limit their presentation to five minutes or less. The Board of Education may, when a large number of identified speakers is to be heard, shorten the allowable time. When it appears that numerous persons will be speaking to a particular item, the Chair may select alternate speakers for and against an action under consideration.

D. Questions and Comments by the Board and Superintendent

Members of the Board of Education and the superintendent may ask questions of a speaker or make comments in response to a speaker's remarks.

E. Closed Sessions

Closed sessions are reserved specifically and only to consider the appointment, employment, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; to consider disciplinary action concerning a pupil of the district; to consider complaints or charges brought against an officer or employee by another public officer, person, or employee; and to consider employee negotiation matters including salary and/or fringe benefits or those matters defined in Section 54950-54962, Government Code.

F. Conduct and Remarks Out of Order

1. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of Board of Education business cannot be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. Statements by any person addressing the Board which reflects adversely upon the racial, religious, economic, or political views, character, or motives of any person are out of order. Persistence in such remarks or improper conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chair, of the person's privilege to address the Board. In extreme cases, the Board reserves the right to exclude those persons whose disorderly conduct clearly precludes accomplishment of the business of the meeting.
2. No person shall orally initiate charges or complaints against individual employees of the district at a public meeting of the Board. All such charges or complaints shall be presented in writing and signed by the person making the accusations. Such written charges, if presented directly to the Board, shall be referred to the superintendent for investigation and a subsequent report of findings to the Board will be made.

G. No Smoking During Board Meetings

Smoking is forbidden at all Board of Education meetings. Smoking or use of tobacco products by any person is prohibited on all district property.

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Ref: EC Sections 35020, 35035, 35145, 35145.5, 35161
Government Code Sections 54950-54962

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