

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED:

REVISED: November 10, 2003

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS	
1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq	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. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the district and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.
2. Authority 65 P.S. 710.1	<p>The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the end of the work session and at the beginning of each action meeting.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006	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.
4. Guidelines	<p>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, procedures, and the organizational structure of the district.</p> <p>The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district.</p> <p>All individuals wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary prior to the meeting and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed, and group affiliation, if applicable.</p> <p>Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to four (4) minutes in duration.</p>

<p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p> <p>Board Policy 006</p>	<p>No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.</p> <p>All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.</p> <p>The presiding officer may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. <p>Electronic recording devices and cameras, other than those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Board.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.</p>
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