



GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

Angela Heineman, President

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*Inspiring Minds
Empowering Achievement
Building Community*

Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing citizens 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 one period for public participation at every regular business meeting or special meeting of the Board. Citizens' questions or comments shall be permitted before the Board takes official action on agenda items, as follows:

- ❖ This is the time period designated for the public to address the Board on action items on the agenda or topics concerning the school district. Questions or comments are limited to three minutes per person. A maximum of thirty minutes will be set aside for public comment. This will allow the Board to complete the agenda, which often has personnel or time sensitive matters.
- ❖ We ask that all citizens show courtesy and respect to everyone present. Statements and questions should be raised only during the public comment portion of the meeting from speakers that have been recognized by the Chair.
- ❖ Citizens, who wish to make a comment or ask a question, are requested to come forward and use the microphone so everyone present can hear the question or remark.
- ❖ A speaker must state his/her name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate. This will be recorded into the minutes for future reference. All public comments shall be directed to the Board.
- ❖ The Board would like to hear from residents on topics concerning the school district. To facilitate this, citizens are asked to pose one question or make a comment that shall be limited to three minutes. Citizens may not speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- ❖ Citizens are invited and encouraged to submit concerns to the Board in writing. If there is a group concern, please consider appointing a spokesperson to present the concern.
- ❖ The Board, by motion, has the discretion to waive these rules for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.
- ❖ Due to confidentiality concerns, the Board will not discuss personnel matters or any issue concerning a specific student or staff member. For such concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Schools. Public discussion is prohibited regarding matters relating to an individual's reputation, privacy, or rights to due process.