



Policy Title: **PUBLIC COMMENT AT BOARD MEETINGS**

District Board meetings are open to the public consistent with Wisconsin statutes. The meetings are to be conducted in accordance with the published agenda.

The Board may provide time for “Public Comment” at each of its regular meetings, therefore including it on the agendas and meeting notices. However, such Public Comment periods are not considered to be public hearings or a forum for public debate.

Several ground rules will be followed regarding the public comment at Board meetings. These ground rules are meant to protect all citizens so that the work of the Board serves everyone, not only those able to attend the meeting:

1. The Board Chair will determine the total amount of time devoted to public comment at any given meeting and may establish a maximum number of individuals to be heard.
2. Prior to the start of the meeting, individuals who wish to address the Board must sign in with the Board Secretary or Board Assistant and provide any requested information.
3. Only individuals signed in to offer public comment will be invited by the Board Chair to do so and will be required to identify themselves prior to their commentary.
4. Each person may be limited to 3 minutes and may only speak once during the public comment period.
5. Individuals should not expect to engage in dialogue or discussion with members of the Board on any matters raised during the public comment period as Board members have no obligation to respond to statements made.
6. Individuals recognized to speak by the Board Chair may not engage in debate or dialogue with any other person at the meeting.
7. The Board will not act or comment on any matters raised in the public comment period that are not otherwise noticed on the agenda for a decision.
8. Comments shall be respectful and courteous. Comments which do not conform to those requirements including those that are personal, threatening, attack others, are obscene or insulting, berate opposing points of view, or are properly subject to closed session such as those relating to personnel matters, will not be allowed. Offending commentators or those who are disruptive will be ruled out of order by the Board Chair and shall immediately stop speaking as directed by the Board Chair. Such individuals may be required to leave the meeting.

The Board Chair will determine any follow-up needed to public commentary including, but not limited to, referring matters to the President, or suggesting a future agenda item.

Public comment is not allowed during other portions of the Board meeting. Meeting interruptions or other disruptive behavior by attendees may require the assistance of campus security or law enforcement if necessary and at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Adopted: 7/13/15

Reviewed: 11/15/16, 11/20/18, 11/21/23

Revised: