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## 0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves in person or remote on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall set aside a portion of every Board meeting, the length of the portion to be determined by the Board, for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of their first and last name, town of residence, school of attendance or street address, and group affiliation, if applicable. . Any student enrolled in the district shall give their first name and school;
2. After in person participants have concluded their comments, the Board will welcome comments from remote participants. Remote participants must access the meeting using the video conferencing platform provided by the district. Remote participants will not be called upon unless their first and last name is identified under displayed name and video is turned on. Remote participants must also preface comments with their first and last name, town of residence, school of attendance or street address, and group affiliation, if applicable;
3. The continued use of audio or video for remote participation could be discontinued at the discretion of the moderator. Items or actions that may be deemed offensive or inappropriate could jeopardize the participants continued participation;
4. The first citizens hearing will be dedicated to affording the public the opportunity to address agenda items only;
5. Each statement made by a participant in person or remote shall be limited to three minutes' duration;
6. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member;
7. The presiding officer may:
  - a. Interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy;



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- b. Interrupt and/or warn a participant when the statement, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory;
  - c. Request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - d. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with a meeting;
  - e. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting; and
  - f. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or to maintain an orderly operation of the Board meeting.

[N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8](#)

[N.J.S.A. 10:4-12](#)

Adopted: 13 May 1985

Revised: 29 June 1987,

11 February 1991

15 February 2001

7 January 2010

9 March 2017

25 May 2022

**Berkeley Heights Public School District**

