

MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Statement of.....

Policy and Responsibility

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education, as a representative body of the community, wishes to provide an avenue for all citizens to express their interests and concerns for the schools. Accordingly, the public is welcome to attend all board meetings.

Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools, and therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.

All meetings shall be open to the public except when those matters as prescribed by law are discussed. However, all actions taken by the Board will be done in open meetings.

At each scheduled meeting, time will be set on the agenda near the beginning of the meeting to permit the Board to hear from Murray residents, parents of students attending Murray City School District, and current employees of the District who wish to make a public comment. Each individual will be limited to three minutes with a total of 30 minutes to be set for this purpose, under the following guidelines:

- Those wishing to make a public comment must make this request by signing their name, address and phone number on the 'Public Comment Form' posted on the table in the Board Room, located in the Murray City School District Administration building, prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Participants must note the agenda item or topic they wish to address when signing their name to participate.
- Public comments are limited to Murray residents, parents of students attending Murray City School District, or current employees of the District, except with prior approval of the Board President.
- When several people (limited to Murray residents, parents of students attending Murray City School District, and current employees of the District) share the same opinion, the Board asks individuals to select a representative spokesperson. Persons representing a group (two or more Murray residents, parents of students attending Murray City School District, or current employees of the District) will receive 5 minutes.
- Current District employees or their representative may not make a public comment as a way to circumvent established communication, grievance, or negotiation procedures.
- Public comments that defame individuals or interrupt the public business of the Board will not be tolerated and may be cause for removal from the meeting. The Board may adjourn the meeting at any time.

Study sessions shall be open to the public, but time shall not be provided for public comments.

The Board may choose to suspend or modify the rules at the Board meeting to allow for appropriate

accommodations or as deemed necessary.

Board meeting attendance cannot exceed the seating capacity of the room in which the meeting is scheduled to be held.

Public comments are welcome regarding:

- New issues
- New program/policy suggestions
- Other issues that have not recently come before the board

During this segment of the meeting, public comments are not allowed regarding:

- Bidding
- Contracts
- Employment or personnel issues
- Criticism of individual district employees
- Criticism of individual students
- Complaints where other appeals are available
- Repetition of issues recently discussed in a board meeting
- Items which have a separate public hearing

Citizens with concerns or proposals are encouraged to contact the Superintendent in advance of the meeting. This will allow the Superintendent to help facilitate their requests.

The intent of this policy is:

1. To allow everyone a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard.
2. To allow the Superintendent to take direct action when policies have already been established by the Board on the subject of the request.
3. To provide adequate time for the Board to obtain necessary information and give thorough thought in situations where the policy does not exist, a change of policy is proposed, or an exception to policy is specifically requested.
4. To see that time so devoted does not interfere with fulfillment of the regular agenda of the Board.