

**MERCER COUNTY FILE: BDDH
(Revised: 12/92)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

In reference to policies of the Board, the Board desires citizens of the district to attend its sessions. Thus, citizens can become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the school system and the Board has the opportunity to hear the ideas of the public.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and at the same time enable the Board to conduct meetings properly and efficiently, citizens must work with the administration before requesting to be placed on the Board's agenda to orally present ideas. The Board, however, reserves the right to meet for work sessions and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that are properly considered in executive session.

The Board adopts as part of this policy the following procedural rules:

1. It is requested but not required that anyone wishing to speak before the Board should request that their name, address and subject matter be placed on the Board's agenda at least five days before the meeting. However, persons not fulfilling this request must register to address the Board immediately before the meeting. Registration will begin fifteen minutes prior to the time the scheduled meeting is to commence.
2. With approval of the majority of the Board, the chairman may permit informal comments or questions from members of the audience at any time. The person wishing to address the Board simply needs to raise his/her hand, wait to be called upon, and, when acknowledged, state name, address and comment or question (limited to three minutes, unless extended by majority vote of the Board).
3. The presentation should be as brief as possible and limited to the stated subject matter. Unless an extension of time is granted by a majority vote of Board members present, an individual speaker shall be limited to three minutes or the representatives of a group/delegation shall be limited to a combined total of ten minutes.
4. Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and/or programs. The Board, however, will not hear complaints lodged against school employees or persons associated with this school system in a Board meeting. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints.

Source: Board of Education Minutes

Date: 11/13/80, 5/10/84, 12/92