

CAPITAL AREA INTERMEDIATE UNIT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
BOARD MEETINGS

ADOPTED: January 27, 2005

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq</p> <p>2. Guidelines 65 P.S. 710.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure whereby residents and taxpayers of the Intermediate Unit may comment at any regular or special meeting of the Board about matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or which may come before the Board.</p> <p>Whenever any matter is included on the agenda for a regular or special meeting, prior to any action, the chair shall inquire as to whether there is present any resident or taxpayer who wishes to make any comments about the matter under consideration. A resident or taxpayer who wishes to make any comments about the matter under consideration shall secure the recognition of the chair and thereafter may comment upon the matter under consideration.</p> <p>If a resident or taxpayer wishes to comment about the matter which is not included on the agenda for the meeting, the resident or taxpayer at the agenda item _____, after securing the recognition of the chair, may comment about the matter.</p> <p>A resident or taxpayer shall, prior to any comments, state his/her name and residence address. Comments shall be limited to matters of concern, official action or deliberation which may come before the Board.</p> <p>The resident or taxpayer shall limit his/her comments to not more than five (5) minutes.</p> <p>The chair may limit repetitive comments.</p> <p>A resident's or taxpayer's right to comment is for the purpose of addressing the Board, not for purposes of asking questions of members of the Board or persons employed by the Intermediate Unit. The chair should remind residents and taxpayers of this policy and shall request members of the Board and persons employed by the Intermediate Unit not to engage in debate at the public meeting with any resident or taxpayer.</p>
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<p>65 P.S. 710, 710.1</p> <p>65 P.S. 710.1</p> <p>PA Statute 65 P.S. 701 et seq, 710, 710.1</p> <p>Board Policy 006</p>	<p>The following will not be permitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments about matters which are not properly discussed at a public meeting (for example, comments about specific students). 2. Vulgar, abusive, obscene or profane language. <p>In addition to comments by residents and taxpayers, the chair may permit comments by persons who are neither residents nor taxpayers. Whether to permit comments by persons who are neither residents nor taxpayers shall be within the discretion of the chair. Comments by persons who are neither residents nor taxpayers shall be subject to the same procedures that are applicable to comments by residents and taxpayers.</p> <p><u>Options, Comments And Additional Considerations</u></p> <p>The Sunshine Act requires the Board to make provisions for public participation at meetings. The Act authorizes, however, the Board to adopt, by official action, rules and regulations which are necessary for the conduct of meetings and the maintenance of order.</p> <p>In connection with public participation at meetings, the Sunshine Act provides that there shall be “a reasonable opportunity at each advertised regular meeting and advertised special meeting for residents of the political subdivision . . . or for taxpayers of the political subdivision . . . to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Board of Directors or council. If the Board . . . determines that there is not sufficient time at a meeting for residents of the political subdivision . . . to comment, the Board of Directors . . . may defer the comment period to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring in advance of the next regular meeting.”</p>
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