

**POLICY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Board of Education of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District are held in order to conduct the business of the School District. Board meetings are held in public so that residents and other concerned individuals may observe the Board in action. The attendance of these persons at Board meetings indicates their interest and concern in the education of the students of the School District. The Board believes it may best represent its constituents when residents take time to attend Board meetings, to express their opinions and to raise questions.

Time shall be set aside during each business meeting of the Board for members of the community or other interested parties to express their questions, concerns and ideas about the School District to the Board. During this time, residents, representatives of School District employee unions, interested members of the educational community and others may comment on any aspect of school district operations.

A public comment period of five (5) minutes each shall be provided at each business meeting. In an effort to provide an opportunity for all interested speakers, all speakers shall be limited to five (5) minutes during the comment period. Speakers will not be permitted to share their time allotment with others. Speakers are requested to sign-up for the comment period in advance with the District Clerk or at the meeting.

When members of the public speak to the Board, they shall state their name and address, the name of the organization (if any) which they represent, and the item they wish to comment on. In order to conduct the Board's business in an orderly and efficient manner, public participation must be limited to a reasonable, brief period of time. If a matter being discussed by a speaker is especially complicated or lengthy, the Board may request that the matter be put in writing or may schedule a public hearing or special meeting on the issue. When circumstances warrant, the Board President may extend a speaker's time to present their concerns.

The Board will not allow personnel matters regarding specific employees or matters about specific students to be discussed during public comment periods. The Board will not permit interruptions, slanderous remarks or "name-calling" by speakers or the audience. The Board will answer questions at their discretion during public comment, but may choose to refer questions to the appropriate administrator.

The President of the Board is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion, the appropriate behavior of the speaker and the appropriateness to the forum of the subject being discussed. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.