

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

### 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 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~~ **not to exceed sixty (60) minutes**, 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.

**As the Board of Education is responsible for decision-making that affects the entire school district, it welcomes comments from the public. Requests to speak can be made online through the District website at [www.trenton.k12.nj.us](http://www.trenton.k12.nj.us) by clicking on *District/Board of Education/Public Participation Request Form*. Members of the public will also be able to sign-up manually in the Board Secretary's Office up to 4:30 p.m. on the day of the Board meeting. Parents and relatives of pupils attending District schools and City of Trenton residents, who sign up in accordance with this Policy shall be given preference and will be called upon to speak before any other member of the public.**

**The opportunity for the Board to hear from the public is when the meeting reaches "Public Comment" on the regular meeting agenda. Members of the Trenton community may address the Board on any item of interest. To ensure timely progression through the agenda, comments are limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. Signing up to speak with the intent of conceding time to another participant is not permitted. Parent or community groups who have a specific concern may present as a group, but no individual speaker will be allotted more than five (5) minutes.**

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. **The Public participation portion of each Board meeting shall not exceed sixty (60) minutes;**
2. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, **whether there is a familial relationship to any District student** and group affiliation, if appropriate;
3. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to ~~three~~ **five (5) minutes** duration.
4. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;



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5. **No participant may yield his/her time to anyone else;**
6. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
7. The presiding officer may:
  - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
  - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
  - d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
  - e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 16 May 2011

Revised (First Reading): 22 January 2018



## 4216 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education believes that the appearance and dress of non-certificated staff members is an important component of the educational program of this school district. The attitude of non-certificated staff members about their responsibilities and the importance of education in the lives of their pupils are reflected in their dress and appearance. Accordingly, in order to create an atmosphere of respect for non-certificated staff and an environment conducive to discipline and learning, the Board establishes the following rules for the dress of non-certificated staff members in the performance of their professional duties:

1. Female staff members may wear dresses, skirts or pants with blouses or sweaters or the school uniform.
2. Male staff members may wear suits or pants with or without jackets and a collared dress shirt or golf shirt or school uniform.
3. Specialized staff (i.e. Facilities) may wear clothing deemed appropriate for their positions and work assignments.
4. All staff members are role models for students. Hats and caps must be removed when entering our school buildings and offices. The clothing and appearance of all non-certificated staff members shall be clean and neat. The following clothing items are deemed to be unprofessional attire: tank tops, halter-style tops, low-cut tops, t-shirts, jeans, shorts or flip-flops.
5. No clothing may be worn that constitutes a danger to health or safety to the wearer or to others, and no clothing may be worn that interferes with the instructional program;
6. Footwear must be of professional style, in good repair, clean and neat. Therefore, footwear is recommended that encloses the feet and heels, for employees' own safety. Recommended shoe attire may include boating or deck shoes, moccasins, casual, closed toe, athletic shoes, tennis shoes, dress shoes and/or pumps or boots. The employee's choice of footwear should take into consideration conditions that employees may be exposed to such as: irregular walking surfaces, wet or slippery walking surfaces and any other conditions that may increase the risks for injury;



7. A non-certificated staff member may request a waiver of this dress code for the performance of particular duties; such waivers may be granted by the Supervisor;
8. The non-certificated staff member's supervisor, shall discuss the possible violation with the non-certificated staff member concerned and, shall determine whether a violation of this dress code has occurred. Where a single violation so warrants, the supervisor may recommend to the Chief Talent Officer to place a reprimand in the non-certificated staff member's personnel file. Upon a subsequent violation, the supervisor may recommend to the Chief Talent Officer to place a reprimand in the non-certificated staff member's personnel file or may recommend progressive disciplinary action. The Chief Talent Officer shall make the final recommendation to the Superintendent for disciplinary action.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4

First Reading: January 22, 2018

