

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Series 200

POLICY TITLE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

No. 213

The Board recognizes the importance of citizen participation and encourages the community to participate in school district matters. It is the right of every citizen of the Johnston Community School District and all members of the public to be present at meetings of the Board of Education, except when the Board holds a closed session pursuant to the authority of the Iowa Open Meetings Law (Chapter 21 of the Code of Iowa) or the meeting is exempt from the requirements of the Iowa Open Meetings Law. To ensure the orderly conduct of Board meetings and the protection of the rights of members of the public, rules of conduct for persons attending and wishing to participate in Board meetings have been established and will be enforced.

To speak on any issue within the general jurisdiction of the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, members of the public will either:

1. Be allowed to participate during the Public Comments portion of each regularly scheduled Board meeting in accordance with the following:
 - a) The Public Comments will be placed at or near the beginning of the agenda for each regularly scheduled Board meeting. A person may speak to any topic within the general jurisdiction of the Board when recognized by the Board President during the Public Comments.
 - b) The Board will generally take a subject raised during the Public Comments under advisement and will respond if appropriate, as soon as possible. The Board has the option of tabling an agenda item for the purpose of further discussion of any information presented. Only topics that are publicly posted in advance of the Board meeting for the entire community to review may be considered for deliberation and action by the Board, except in emergency situations.
 - c) Citizens wishing to present petitions to the Board may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents during the Public Comments portion of the meeting.
2. Be recognized by the Board President during a specific agenda item if an individual previously submitted a specific item for the agenda and said requested item was selected for the agenda in accordance with the provisions of Board Policy No. 210.8.
3. Any person addressing the Board during Public Comments or as part of a specific agenda item will state his or her name and address and will conduct himself/herself with respect and decorum. In either situation the President or designee will allow three minutes for each citizen to address Board. The Board reserves the right to limit the time allotted to the Public Comments portion of each regular Board meeting's agenda to a total of 30 minutes. Additional time may be authorized

by the Board as it deems appropriate. The time limit is intended to allow others to address the Board and allow timely completion of meetings. The Board reserves the discretion to extend, limit or suspend community participation.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the Board only after they have followed Board policy addressing citizens' complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the Board after they have followed board policy addressing students' complaints.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 205 Board Member Liability
210.8 Board Meeting Agenda
214. Public Hearings
307. Communication Channels
401.4 Employee Complaints
402.5 Public Complaints About Employees
502.4 Student Complaints and Grievances

Date Approved: August 26, 1996
Last Date Reviewed: August 8, 2016
Last Date Revised: August 29, 2016