

Adopted: 2/23/98

Revised:

207 PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. PURPOSE

The Cooperative board recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters properly before the Cooperative board. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order for the Cooperative board to efficiently receive public input on matters properly before the Cooperative board, the procedures set forth in this policy are established by the Cooperative board.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Public Hearings

Public hearings may be held by the Cooperative board on Cooperative district matters at the discretion of the Cooperative board.

B. Notice of Public Hearings

Public notice of a public hearing shall be shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the Cooperative board.

C. Public Participation

The Cooperative board retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the Cooperative board and complete and file with the clerk of the Cooperative board an appropriate request card prior to the commencement of the hearing if the Cooperative board utilizes this procedure. In that case, any request to address the Cooperative board after the commencement of the hearing will be granted only at the discretion of the Cooperative board.

1. Format of Request: If required by the Cooperative board, a written request of an individual or a group to address the Cooperative board shall contain the name and address of the person or group seeking to address the Cooperative board. It shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.

2. Time Limitation: The Cooperative board retains the discretion to limit the time

for each presentation as needs dictate.

3. Groups: The Cooperative board retains the discretion to require that any group of persons who desire to address the Cooperative board designate one representative or spokesperson. In the event that the Cooperative board requires the designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other person in the group will be recognized to address the Cooperative board, except as otherwise determined by the Cooperative board.

4. Privilege to Speak: A Cooperative board member should direct any remarks or questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the Cooperative board, or the proceedings may be directed to leave.

5. Personal Attacks: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the Cooperative board are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the Cooperative board.

6. Limitations on Participation: Depending upon the number of persons in attendance seeking to be heard, the Cooperative board reserves the right to impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary in order to provide an orderly, efficient and fair opportunity for those present to be heard.

Cross References: MSBA Model Policy 206 (Public Participation in Cooperative Board Meetings/ Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations)