

Section 18: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Policy purpose: It is the purpose of this policy to ensure the public has every right to address the state board on issues related to its goals to help improve the quality of public schooling in Wyoming.

Policy statement:

The State Board of Education recognizes its obligation to help Wyoming citizens understand the operation of public schools. The board is also aware of the need for communication with citizens to permit the public to voice opinions and also to permit the board to explain general policies governing the operation of schools in the state. Therefore, in an effort to provide a procedure by which matters of statewide interest concerning schools may be brought before the board, while at the same time permitting the board to conduct its meetings in an orderly and efficient manner, the State Board of Education offers the following policy with regard to citizen participation in the meetings of the board:

Citizen participation will take place during that part of the regular meeting designated on the agenda as the “Public Comment Period,” though the Chair has the prerogative to call on individuals or agency representatives to comment during the course of the meeting. Procedures for the “Public Comment Period” are as follows:

- 1) The chair may limit each individual’s comments to five (5) minutes, and the entire period to thirty (30) minutes.
- 2) Board members may ask clarifying questions after remarks are complete. Board action, if any is warranted, shall be taken at a subsequent meeting.
- 3) These procedures may be temporarily waived by a majority vote where such a waiver is justified by extenuating circumstances.

Statement of chair: The following statement will be read before any citizen speaks to the board during the Public Comment Period:

“We appreciate your interest in public education. At the discretion of the board you will be allotted {five (5)} minutes for your comments. We would appreciate if you gave us your name and community; you are welcome to add an affiliation, if you have one. Since we are hearing your comments for the first time, it is our policy to accept your comments as information, but it is likely we will not respond at this time.”

