

# POLICY

## Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: M0167

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

It is the policy of the Bernards Township Board of Education that the public shall have access to the deliberations, policy formulations and decision making of the Board. Accordingly, all meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, with the exception of meetings which are called to discuss subjects that by law may be discussed in private.

In order to inform the public of the matters scheduled to be discussed at public Board meetings, agenda for such meetings shall ordinarily be made available at least 48 hours in advance of meetings. Copies of the agenda will be sent to the Bernards Township Public Library and to each of the schools at the same time that they are sent to Board members. In addition, copies of the agenda shall be available during regular business hours at the office of the Board Secretary and shall be posted on the district website. Copies of the agenda shall also be available in the meeting room immediately before public sessions.

One purpose of Board of Education meetings is to inform the media and the public and to invite comments and questions on matters of general interest concerning the program of education and activities at the schools. State laws and regulations require that certain matters be reported out to the public; the Board of Education believes that it can be beneficial to communicate and inform the public whenever possible. The topics that must be brought to the public include the following:

1. District goals, objectives and standards;
2. The State audit report;
3. The budget;
4. Reports on pupil progress; and
5. Annual plans for Special Education, bilingual ESL, and basic skills programs.

The Board encourages and welcomes participation by Bernards Township residents and organizations at public meetings. Such participation will occur during scheduled public hearing periods specified on the agenda for each meeting. Comments by the public at a specially called public meeting shall ordinarily be limited to the matter for which the meeting was called.

The Board recognizes its responsibility to conduct the business of the district in an orderly and efficient manner and will therefore maintain reasonable guidelines for public comments or presentations to the Board. Persons wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the President. They shall then identify themselves and proceed with their comments. The President is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meetings and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion, the appropriateness of the subject being presented and the suitability of the time for such a presentation.

The Board will not permit unnecessary or undesirable identification of pupils or employees at public Board of Education meetings.

# POLICY - Continued

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LEGAL: <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:4-6 through -21	Short title...
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:10-6	Board meeting public; frequency; hours of commencement; adjournment, etc., for lack of quorum
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:22-10	Fixing day, etc., for public hearing
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:23-5	Meeting Board; discussion of report
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.3(a)1i(1),1ii(1)	Evaluation of elements and standards (planning)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.3(a)2ii,2ii(3), 2iii	Evaluation of elements and standards (community relations)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.3(a)10iv(1)	Evaluations of elements and standards (financial)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.4(a) Findings	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-5.1(d), (g)2	Level II review process
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-7.1(f)1	Promotion, remediation and graduation procedures
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-8.3(b)1i,1iii	Procedures for evaluation and certification (planning)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-8.3(b)2ii	Procedures for evaluation and certification (community relations)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-8.3(b)7ii,7iv, 7vi	Procedures for evaluation and certification (mandated programs)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-8.3(b)11v	Procedures for evaluation and certification (financial)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:28-2.1(g)	General requirements

**ADOPTED: July 30, 2001**