

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Code BEE Issued 8/04*

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for public hearings.

The board may conduct a public hearing on any issue it deems appropriate.

The district will offer interested or affected persons an opportunity to be heard informally before the superintendent or the delegated administrative official. If necessary, the board may grant a hearing as well.

The board will follow certain procedures whenever large delegations come before it requesting a hearing regarding a critical issue being decided by the board.

### **Position of the board stated**

After the meeting has been officially opened, the chairman of the board will briefly state the position of the board and give reasons. If the board has not taken official action on the issue, the chairman may so state and may summarize briefly the arguments for and against the issue to be decided.

### **Speakers for and against the issue**

The secretary of the board will secure the names of all wishing to be heard before the board. Those wishing to speak will indicate whether they are for or against the issue involved. The board will not hear persons who do not respond to the secretary's request.

The chairman may set a reasonable time limit for each speaker.

### **Board may ask questions**

After the speakers for and against the issue have been heard, the chairman may allow board members to ask questions pertaining directly to the issue involved.

### **Action by the board**

After the chairman closes public discussion, the board may proceed with its deliberations and take whatever action it deems advisable.

At any hearing, the board, by a majority vote, may take the issue under submission. The board may continue the hearing from time to time but not for a period of more than 60 days from the date of its next regular meeting.

Adopted 7/1/75; Revised 8/13/91, 8/10/04

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Legal references:

- A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  1. Section 59-19-90(4) - Calling meetings of electors for consultations.
  2. Section 59-19-110 - Board rule-making power includes right to conduct any hearing.