

## POLICY 135 – SCHOOL BOARD OPERATION

### Additional Amendments recommended to Section 8 by the Coordinating Committee – September 21, 2021

Yellow highlights – recommendations from the Policy Committee

Green highlights – recommendations from the Coordinating Committee

#### 8. Public Question Period and/or Comments

- 8.1 Two periods (up to fifteen minutes each) shall be set aside at each regular meeting for the Board to receive comments and to respond to questions from the public. Each speaker shall be allotted three minutes to speak. The Board may, at the request of the Chairperson or any Trustee, vote to extend the time allotted to the question/comment period at any meeting.
- 8.1.1 At the beginning of each question/comment period, the Chairperson shall determine how many people wish to present a question(s)/comment(s). If the number is high, one question/comment shall be taken from each person. ~~after which each person may present subsequent questions/comments in turn, until the allotted time is used.~~
- 8.1.2 The first period shall be scheduled near the beginning of the meeting to provide an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any Action items on the agenda.
- 8.1.3 The second period shall be scheduled near the end of the meeting to provide an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any matter pertaining to public education.
- 8.2 All questions shall be directed to the Chairperson, who may refer the question to the appropriate Committee Chairperson, Trustee, Superintendent of Schools/CEO or Secretary-Treasurer.
- 8.3 The response to a question will be made immediately, when possible, or deferred until a later date when information becomes available. If a Trustee wishes further debate on an issue, an appropriate opportunity may be scheduled by the Coordinating Committee.
- 8.4 Although the Board welcomes questions of a general nature during this part of the meeting, this forum is for questions regarding policies or operations.
- 8.5 Questions regarding personnel or specific students must be raised with the Superintendent of Schools/CEO privately.
- 8.6 Individuals addressing the Board shall assume personal responsibility for all statements made to the Board.
- 8.7 The Chairperson may use discretion to terminate any speaker's privilege or exclude a speaker from the meeting if, after due warning, the speaker persists with conduct or remarks which damage the character or reputation of any employee or member of the public.

- 8.8 Comments that are critical of either the Board or a Trustee's Board-related action shall be accepted within reasonable limits. The Chairperson shall use judgment to stop such comments when they are considered to be extreme or would be better discussed in a different forum.
- 8.9 If the Chairperson accepts, during a public presentation, comments which are accusatory or highly critical of an individual Trustee's action, that Trustee can choose to respond at the same meeting or at a future meeting.
- 8.10 One fifteen minute period shall be set aside at each public standing committee meeting for the Board Committee to receive comments and to respond to questions from the public on any item of on the agenda.

AMENDMENT - Coordinating Committee