

Public Participation at Board of Trustees Meetings

Date Adopted:	5/8/1984
Date Revised:	4/12/2022
Date Reviewed:	4/12/2022
References:	Education Code Section 72121.5; Government Code Section 54954.3 and 54957.5

It shall be the practice of the Sierra Community College District Board of Trustees to make all of its meetings open to the public, except where prohibited by law. Faculty, staff, students, interested community members, and representatives of the media shall be welcome and encouraged to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees.

The Board shall provide opportunities for members of the general public to participate in the business of the Board.

Members of the public may bring matters directly related to the business of the District to the attention of the Board by placing items on the prepared agenda in accordance with Board Policy 2340.

Members of the public also may submit written communications to the Board on items on the agenda and speak to agenda items at the board meeting prior to a vote being called on the item. See Board Policy 2350. All such written communications shall be dated and signed by the author, and shall contain the residence or business address of the author and the author's organizational affiliation, if any. If requested, writings that are public records shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats so as to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Claims for damages are not considered communications to the Board under this rule, but shall be submitted to the District.

There will be a designated item on each regularly scheduled board meeting agenda for the general public to discuss items not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. See Board Policy 2350. No action may be taken by the Board on items which were not on the agenda.

Members wishing to present such items shall submit a written request at the beginning of the meeting to the President of the Board (through designated staff member) that summarizes the item and provides his or her name and organizational affiliation, if any.

The Board reserves the right to fix such time limits on presentations as it deems appropriate to the occasion and may limit the time available to speakers before it. Any such limitation will be equally apportioned among speakers and independent of a speaker's identity, affiliation or point of view, with the exception that at least twice the allotted time will be provided to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the body to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

If any person requests an opportunity to present complaints to the Board about a specific employee, such complaints shall first be presented to the Superintendent/President. Notice shall be given to the employee against whom the charges or complaints are directed. If the complaint is not resolved at the administrative level, the matter shall be scheduled for a closed session of the Board. The employee shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours written notice of the closed session, and shall be given the opportunity to request that the complaints be heard in an open meeting of the Board.

Undue interruptions or other interference with orderly conduct of the business of the Board will not be permitted. Disruptive behavior, defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order and the Board President may terminate the speaker's privilege of address, if, after being called to order, he or she persists in improper conduct or if remarks are addressing matters outside the Board's jurisdiction.

See Board Policy 2350 and 2355.