REGULATION: 9322-R PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation

Meetings of the Franklin Lakes Board of Education are open to the public and all members of the community should feel free to attend. A time for public discussion of agenda items shall be included in the order of business at an appropriate time.

Public Participation shall be governed by the following rules:

A. There shall be two designated time periods for public comments. Public comments regarding agenda items only will be heard at the beginning of each board meeting. General public comments will be heard at the end of each board meeting.

B. Public comments will only be permitted during those portions of the meeting designated for the hearing of the public. The portions of the meetings during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to 30 minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the board members present.

C. All persons wishing to participate in a public board meeting may be directed to register their intent with the Board Secretary at the beginning of the meeting.

D. A participant registered to speak may not yield his/her time to another.

E. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface his or her comments by an announcement of his or her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable.

F. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.

G. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

H. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question an administrator.

I. Grievances or complaints that have not previously been considered through administrative channels shall not be considered by the board.

The presiding officer may:

A. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, duplicative, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;

B. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;

C. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;

D. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and

E. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the board’s business.

The above stated rules governing public participation shall be printed and available at the start of all public meetings.

Grievances or complaints that have not previously been considered through administrative channels shall not be considered by the board.

Adopted: August 3, 2010; February 26, 2013