

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Public comment about the MSD of Wayne Township is welcomed by the School Board whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program. Any person or group having an interest in the operation of the District shall have the right to present a request, suggestion, comment, or concern relating to personnel, the programs, or the operations of the District.

Comments and concerns related to curriculum, methods of instruction, instructional materials, or District employees shall be submitted in writing to the principal of the school and the Superintendent. Comments and concerns thus submitted will be considered by the Superintendent or designated assistants and the principal. At the discretion of the Superintendent, a committee may be appointed, an existing committee may be utilized, or other action may be taken to review the matter in question and submit a written decision to the Superintendent.

Subject to the reasonable rules and registration process described herein, the Board shall allow members of the public, physically present at a meeting, to provide oral comment before the Board takes final action on a topic. The Board may choose to allow public comment during an electronic meeting held during a declared emergency or local disaster.

- a. To allow for an efficient meeting, the total amount of time dedicated to public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board may increase the time allotted for public comment in order to meet obligations under law.
- b. The Board shall allot each person providing public comment two (2) minutes to speak.
- c. Persons wishing to address the Board on an agenda item shall register twenty-four (24) hours ahead of the scheduled meeting time by completing the appropriate form. The [Registration Form](#) will include the name of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any), and identify the agenda item to be addressed. If the speaker maintains legal settlement within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries; or is a legal guardian of an enrolled student; or is actively employed by the MSD Wayne Township; or owns a business within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries, they will indicate as such on the form and will be prepared to present proof if requested.
- d. No person may speak more than once on the same topic.

In order to receive public comment on all agenda items scheduled for final action, the Board will first take speakers who are individuals who maintain legal settlement within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries; or a legal guardian of an enrolled student; or actively employed by the MSD Wayne Township; or own a business within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries.

If the overall time allotment does not allow for accommodation of all speakers, comment will rotate through agenda items to assure the Board hears comment on all agenda items. For example, the Board would hear comment from the first person to register to speak regarding agenda item 1, then the first person to register to speak regarding agenda item 2, and so on and so forth for each agenda item scheduled for final action at the meeting. The Board would then repeat that process, moving to the second, third, fourth, etc., person registered to speak on each agenda item until all registered speakers have spoken or the thirty (30) minute time limit expires, whichever occurs first

Before the start of public comment, the Board President may review and summarize the requirements of *Policy A225: Civility and Decorum*. Speakers will abide by *Policy A225: Civility and Decorum* at all times.

At the Board President's sole discretion, public comment may be permitted on issues not listed as a public agenda item or public comment from an individual who was not able to register twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting time but maintains legal settlement within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries; or is a legal guardian of an enrolled student; or is actively employed by the MSD Wayne Township; or owns a business within the MSD Wayne Township boundaries.

The purpose of public comment is to give the Board members as much information as possible, not to engage in debate. Board members or administrators may provide answers to questions asked during public comment if the information is readily available and not confidential. Often, however, questions will not be answered, but taken under advisement and answers returned at a later time, if possible.

The Board will not tolerate statements that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, lewd, vulgar, defamatory, libelous, hostile, personal attacks, or on a topic outside of the agenda. Comments should be directed to the Board, not an individual Board member. Comments may not reference specific Board members, District employees, patrons, or students.

The Board President may take appropriate action to maintain order at a meeting. Such actions may include removal of any person who is willfully disruptive of the meeting or does not abide by this policy.

MSD of Wayne Township, Marion County, Indiana

Adopted: November 16, 1992

Revised: February 24, 2014

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