

AP 2345 Public Participation at Board Meetings

Reference:

Education Code Section 72121.5;

Government Code Section 54954.2 and 54957.5

Public Participation

Members of the public have the right to place matters directly related to community college district business on the agenda of governing board meetings.

The West Kern Community College District encourages citizens to attend board meetings and welcomes their view on pertinent subjects. In order to afford this opportunity to the public, the following procedures to address the board have been adopted to insure the proper functioning of board meetings:

Advance Written Request

Any person or group desiring to address the Board of Trustees is requested to make a written request to the Superintendent/President at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, summarizing the remarks to be made, so that the Board of Trustees may have knowledge of the subject in advance of the presentation. The written request will include the name and address of the responsible person.

Requests During Meeting

Any person who has submitted a request to be heard will be called on at the appropriate time. Ordinarily, this will be the second item on the agenda. However, if a person wishes to express his/her views on an agenda item being considered by the Board of Trustees, he/she must first be recognized by the President of the Board and give his/her name and address.

Time Limit for Speakers

A policy of five minutes per speaker has been established, unless the time limit is waived by a majority of the Board members present. The District must provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the body to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously. The Board of Trustees may, if there are a large number of speakers to be heard, shorten the time. When it appears to the Chair that there will be a large number of persons speaking to a particular question, the Chair shall endeavor to alternate speakers for and against the agenda item under discussion.

Questions and Comments by the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent/ President

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent/President may question a speaker or make comments in response to the speaker's remarks as frequently as necessary in order to clarify the discussion.

Conduct and Remarks Out of Order

Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of the Board's business cannot be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The Board President may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if after being called to order he/she persists in improper conduct or remarks.