

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Public comment about the School Corporation is welcomed by the School Board whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program.

Public comments at school board meetings are reserved for individuals who reside within the Corporation boundaries, are parents/guardians of MVCSC students, and/or employees of MVCSC.

Comments and concerns related to curriculum, methods of instruction, instructional materials, or Corporation 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 his or her 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.

Time for public comments at school board meetings is limited to 30 total minutes and three (3) minutes per individual to allow for an efficient meeting. Persons wishing to address the Board on a scheduled public agenda item shall sign in at the start of the meeting, provide their home address, affiliation (if any), and the agenda item they wish to address.

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 abusive or inappropriate language or statements including, but not limited to statements that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, lewd, vulgar, defamatory, libelous, hostile, or personal attacks. Comments should be directed to the Board, not an individual Board member. Comments may not reference specific Corporation employees, patrons, or students.

The Board President may take appropriate action to maintain order at a meeting. Such actions may include stopping the speaker or limiting comments due to the number of individuals desiring to comment and/or the length of the agenda.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the procedures of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted at the discretion of the presiding officer.

- B. Only those who have signed in prior to the start of the meeting, and have been verified as a resident or parent of a student, may be considered for participation during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- G. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 - 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 - 4. 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;
 - 5. 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;
 - 6. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.
- H. Tape or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
 - 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
 - 2. No interviews are conducted during the Board meeting.
 - 3. No commentary is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience.

School Corporation

Adopted: [date]

Revised: [date]