

Lackawanna Trail School District

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Matthew Rakauskas
Superintendent

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Business Manager

Dear Lackawanna Trail Residents,

On November 8th 2021, the Lackawanna Trail Board of Education adopted policy 903 - Public Participation in Board Meetings. The purpose of this policy is to balance the importance of involving members of the public in board meetings, with the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner. Public participation is an important part of our board meetings; therefore, establishing and maintaining this balance is paramount for our Board of Directors and Administration.

What follows are some of the key takeaways from this revised policy which goes into effect at our December 6th Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting. The complete version of policy 903 can be found on the website at www.ltsd.org/board-of-education/board-policy, where you can click on the Board Docs link.

- ✓ In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation, which are or may be before the Board prior to official action by the Board.
- ✓ The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district.
- ✓ Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if applicable. The address may be a simple statement of the area of residence. For example, Factoryville, Nicholson, Dalton, etc.
- ✓ Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration. The presiding officer may extend this at his/her discretion.
- ✓ No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- ✓ All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question school directors individually.
- ✓ The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant, request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum, request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when the person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting and call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to review this correspondence, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to future board meetings when we carry out this revised policy.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rakauskas

Superintendent