



# STONE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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## POLICY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Title:** Public Participation in Board Meetings

**Policy Number:** 903

**Adopted:** September 8, 2016

**Revised:**

### PURPOSE

The Board recognizes the value to the Charter School's governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the Charter School and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

### AUTHORITY

20 US Code 7844

The Board shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Board meetings necessary to conduct its meetings and to maintain order.

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 parents or community members to comment on matters of concern, official or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.

The Board shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.

### DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

## **GUIDELINES**

Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Board, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies and procedures and the organizational structure of the Charter School.

To assure that public participation will not disrupt the time needed to accomplish required business, the Board establishes the following procedures:

1. The person who wishes to speak shall first seek recognition by the Board President. When such recognition is accorded the speaker shall identify him/herself and state the nature of the matter s/he wishes to bring before the Board.
2. The Board President shall then rule whether the subject in question is appropriate to the time. Should the President rule against discussion of the subject at that time, s/he shall inform the speaker of a time when the Board will hear him/her or the Board President shall refer the speaker to an appropriate staff member.
3. Interested persons who wish to ensure the opportunity to be heard at a particular Board meeting shall present a request to the Director of Education or Board President defining the nature of the matter to be brought before the Board. Such requests received in advance of the distribution of the agenda for the regular meeting to the Board will be placed on the agenda for that meeting.
4. Upon convening each Board meeting, the Board President shall determine whether or not there are persons who wish to address the Board. When such persons are present, the Board shall set an appropriate time during the meeting when it will provide the opportunity for the person(s) to speak. In the interest of time, presentations by interested parties on any one subject shall be limited.

Teachers and staff of the Charter School are encouraged to attend Board meetings. Should such persons desire an audience with the Board they shall request the same in accordance with Board policies. On the other hand, employees in attendance at meetings shall not be expected to respond to Board or administrative questions which relate to (a) the propriety of their actions in matters under discussions (b) which could involve their personal or professional reputations. In such matters, the Board and Director of Education shall respect the legal rights of the employee and ensure the employee due process of law.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members 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, call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting, and waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

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**President—Board of Trustees**

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**Secretary—Board of Trustees**

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