

**SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2018**

DRAFT

8. Audience to the Public

The Syosset Board of Education and Administration welcome your attendance at Board of Education meetings. The meetings will also be broadcast on the District Radio Station, WKWZ 88.5 FM. The Board of Education recognizes the value of community participation. As such, Audience to the Public affords residents of the District the opportunity to address the Board of Education.

The procedure for public participation during that portion of the meeting designated for this purpose is:

- Those who wish to speak during Audience to the Public must first be recognized by the Chair.
- Residents must enter their full name and address into the Register located at the microphone before they speak.
- Each resident will have four minutes to address the Board of Education, which may be extended at the discretion of the Chair for good cause.
- The Board of Education and/or Administration will do their best to provide an immediate response to the resident's question. Following the initial question, the resident will be permitted one follow-up related question or statement.
- The Board will not permit "polling" of Board members by guest speakers.
- Any resident who would like to re-address the Board of Education after their initial turn, may do so after every other resident-audience member has the opportunity to address the Board of Education.
- Neither the Board of Education nor Administration will identify a specific student or staff member by name, or by providing personally identifiable information at any time during the meeting; including but not limited to, during that portion of the meeting designated for the purpose of public participation. Neither the Board nor Administration will discuss questions from the public regarding collective bargaining negotiations, personnel matters, student matters, or legal matters.
- The Board of Education is aware that many of our guests seek to speak about a personnel issue involving a staff member, or occasionally a student. It has not been the practice of this Board to entertain public discussion of specific personnel matters, and certainly any comments or statements regarding individual student issues. The reason for our inability to address these matters of concern is the Board's important responsibility, imposed upon us by the Education Law of the State of New York and Federal statutes, to protect the rights that employees generally have to a reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to such matters as their appointment, promotion, and employment history. Various Federal and State statutes protect the privacy interests of students which, of course, the Board follows to the letter of the law. Another reason for the policy is that the Board cannot enter into a dialogue with the community on the merits of any particular employee, since the teacher's expectation of privacy precludes the Board from speaking frankly, and from sharing information of a confidential or privileged nature concerning the employee with the general public. To do otherwise would interfere with the employee's due process right to be heard in an appropriate and private forum. Consequently, Boards of Education are not free to engage in public discussion as to the competence or ability of particular staff members. We are advised that the law prohibits such discussions regarding students. Hence, the Board will not respond to any comments from the public regarding particular staff members from those who seek to make a statement. The Board will not entertain any statements regarding any student. To do so opens to public debate something that must remain private. The Board of Education hopes that you understand its responsibility to ensure that the privacy and due process rights of staff and students are fully protected. The only way to meet this duty is to avoid any and all public commentary concerning individual staff and students. If anyone in the audience believes that it is necessary to communicate with the Board of Education regarding these matters, the Board will accept written statements delivered to the Board in a confidential fashion. Hence, we strongly urge that you refrain from such statements.

9. Discussion

- Addressing the Vacancy on the School Board

10. Adjournment