

Center Independent School District

Modified Public Comment/Regulation

(Effective during Governor's Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act)

Public participation at Board meetings is encouraged. In accordance with BED(LOCAL), persons wishing to address the Board about a topic related to District business during the period reserved for public comment at a Board meeting must call (936) 598-1627 in advance to be heard [See BED(LOCAL)]. The following guidelines apply to public comment:

- 1) At regular monthly Board meetings, the Board shall permit public comment as defined in policy BED(LOCAL), regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with the notice of the meeting.

At all other Board Meetings, public participation and comments shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

- 2) Individuals must call and record their comment in advance of the Board meeting. When an individual calls, the individual must indicate whether the comment pertains to an item on the Board agenda and, if so, which item or items.
- 3) The period reserved for public comment at a Board meeting will generally occur at the beginning of the meeting. However, in the interest of time and the orderly conduct of business, the presiding officer may make adjustments in accordance with the Board's adopted procedures on public comment.
- 4) Each individual will be limited to five (5) minutes to make comments to the Board. When necessary, for effective meetings and time management, or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may make adjustments to the public comment procedures, including, but not limited to, adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting; reordering agenda items; deferring public comment on non-agenda items; continuing agenda items to a later meeting; providing expanded opportunity for public comment; or establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting the time allotted to each speaker. No individual shall be given less than one minute to make comments.
- 5) Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board is not permitted to discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the agenda for today's meeting.
- 6) The Board has adopted complaint policies that are designed to secure, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and

concerns. Each of these processes provides that, if a resolution cannot be achieved administratively, the person may appeal the administrative decision to the Board as properly posted agenda item. For further information on those policies, please contact CISD Administration at (936)598-5642 or by email. If the subject of your comment involves a pending grievance, please continue to seek resolution through the grievance process and address the Board only at the appropriate stage of that process.

- 7) Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board may exercise its authority to discuss certain subject matters in closed session, including matters involving individual District staff members and individual students. If your comment concerns one of these subjects, please address your concern through the complaint policies.

- 8) Rules of order and decorum will be enforced during the public comment period to ensure efficient meetings. Vulgar and inappropriate remarks will either be edited or revised for presentation to the Board. Each participant is legally responsible for the content and consequences of his or her own statements.

Participants are requested to provide the information requested below if you wish to address the Board during the public comment period:

Name: _____
Address/City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Will a translator accompany you? YES NO
Please provide the name of translator: _____ (if known)

Does the topic or topics on which you wish to address the Board appear on the current agenda?
 YES NO

If YES, please indicate the topic (or topics) on the agenda about which you wish to address the Board about: _____

If NO, please list any topics on which you would like to comment that are not on the agenda for the meeting: _____

