

**Sec. 1.8.3.1. RIGHT TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

Life School shall take no action abridging the freedom of speech or the right of people to petition the Board for redress of grievances. *U.S. Const. Amend. I, XIV*. Additionally, citizens shall have the right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other purposes, by petition, address, or remonstrance. *Tex. Const. Art. I, Sec. 27*.

The Board may confine its meetings to specified subject matter, and may hold non-public sessions to transact business. When the Board sits in public meetings to conduct public business and hear the views of citizens, it may not discriminate between speakers on the basis of the content of their speech or the message it conveys. *Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors of Univ. of Virginia, 515 U.S. 819 (1995)*; *City of Madison v. Wis. Emp. Rel. Comm'n, 429 U.S. 167 (1976)*; *Pickering v. Bd. of Educ., 391 U.S. 563 (1968)*.

The Board may create a limited public forum for the purpose of hearing comments from the public, so long as:

1. The Board does not discriminate against speech on the basis of viewpoint;
2. Any restrictions are reasonable in light of the purpose served by the forum; and
3. The Board provides alternative paths for expressing categories of protected speech that are excluded from the forum.

*Fairchild v. Liberty Indep. Sch. Dist., 597 F.3d 747 (5th Cir. 2010)*.

**Sec. 1.8.3.2. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

The Board shall allow each member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting of the Board to address the Board regarding the item at the meeting before or during the Board's consideration of the item. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

**A. Time Limits**

Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated for that purpose or for specific agenda items as permitted by law and procedures established by the Board. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

**A. Public Comment**

At regular meetings, the Board shall allot 30 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board generally during public comment, and shall allot time to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board both generally or on specific agenda items. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins, and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak.

Each person who signs up shall be allowed to address the Board one time for no more than three minutes. Delegations of more than five persons are encouraged to appoint one person to present their views before the Board.

### **B. Board's Response**

Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

#### **Sec. 1.8.3.3. COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS.**

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the person shall be referred to the appropriate policy (see list below) to seek resolution:

Employee complaints: Board Policy PG-4.6 (Employee Complaints and Grievances [General]).

Student or parent complaint: Board Policy PG-3.30 (Student and Parent Complaints and Grievances).

Complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation: for students and parents, Board Policy PG-3.2 (Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation); for employees, Board Policy PG-4.16 (Nondiscrimination Policy).

Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504: Board Policy PG-3.30 (Student and Parent Complaints and Grievances), subject to the time limitations referenced in Board Policy PG-3.1 (Equal Educational Opportunity).

Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Board Policy PG-3.1 (Equal Educational Opportunity) and Board Policy PG-3.30 (Student and Parent Complaints and Grievances).

Public complaints: Board Policy PG-1.10 (Public Complaints).

Disruption

The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any person continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the person removed from the meeting.

The Board encourages constructive feedback and criticism and shall not prohibit public criticism of the board as a body corporate, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program or service. This does not limit or apply to any form of criticism or disruptive act that may be otherwise prohibited by law.