

Who can speak at your board meetings?

Who is in your “community” and who are “stakeholders”?

Your board policy may define who can speak at board meetings. Board policies often limit speaking at board meetings to those who live in the community. The claim is that those that live in the community are the only stakeholders because they pay the local property taxes and might have children in the school district. **It is important to note that this ideology may be challenged in the courts, and we believe that the district will lose this case.**

Local property taxes are only one of several revenue streams school districts use to fund the district. More than likely, your district operates predominately on state and federal funds. Using this insight to determine who gets the right to speak at board meetings means that the district should consider anyone who pays state and federal taxes as stakeholders as well. The board can invite anyone they wish to bring information to the board at and during a school board meeting.

One School Board Member invited a stellar historian to speak about why teaching true American history is imperative. His name is Larry Schweikart, historian, and retired Professor of History at University of Dayton. Mr. Schweikart authored several American History books. Find them here: <https://discount99.us/larry%20schweikart>

Can the board filter who speaks or what is said? (video of parent speaking at Board meeting against CRT - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=560151078485457>)

The answer is NO. If the board has a policy that the public can speak, they can set rules as they pertain to the length of time allowed for each person, length of time for all public speaking and in what section of the agenda.

As some school boards have learned, the board may not filter who gets to speak or what topic they chose to speak about.

The board must allow speakers to speak on any subject they wish.

The board cannot- as court rulings imply, tell a speaker not to speak about a specific person, speak on a certain subject, be “respectful” or not to curse. If a board allows public comment they cannot restrict those from commenting or restrict what they say.

Does your board require pre-arrangement for speaking? Is this legal?

Does your board require speaker to sign up in advance or to give name and address? – is this legal?