

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION POLICY FOR BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETINGS

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Board of Library Trustees of the Barrington Public Library District provides an opportunity for public comment at Board meetings. The Board has a responsibility to conduct the business of the Library District in an orderly and efficient manner and to establish reasonable procedures for public comment at its meetings.

The following procedures for public comment are intended to maintain the orderly conduct of meetings and ensure fairness to those who wish to address the Board:

1. Anyone interested in speaking publicly at a Board meeting is welcome. Individuals wishing to speak during public comment are requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers shall be called in order of their request to speak.
2. The general public comment portion of the meeting occurs prior to the business of the meeting. This general public comment period is intended to provide an opportunity for individuals to comment on items relevant to District business. Issues relevant to District business are defined to mean information about District events; issues that the public body has the authority to address; items listed on the agenda; and items or issues previously voted on by the Board or that the Board has the authority to consider or vote on in the future.
3. Speakers will be limited to three minutes per person during the general public comment portion of the meeting. The total time allotted for the general public comment period will be 30 minutes, unless a majority of the Board votes to extend the time allotted.
4. Only one person may speak at a time during any public comment period. Speakers during public comment may speak only when recognized by the Board President.
5. No person may assign their time to any other person.
6. A group of three (3) or more individuals speaking on the same topic are asked to designate a single spokesperson to present the group's public comments.
7. Repetitive comments or arguments are not permitted.
8. Members of the Board who wish to ask clarifying questions of the speaker during the public meeting or hearing may do so, but only after first being recognized by the Chair. Interaction with the speaker is limited to a question or questions, rather than an ongoing dialogue.

9. The Board President may cut off or stop a speaker if the public comment is irrelevant to Library District business, unreasonably repetitious, substantially disruptive, or violates the rules of decorum.
10. Members of the public and Library Trustees should all treat everyone with respect. Abusive, foul, threatening, demeaning and disorderly language and/or conduct are not permitted. Any person who disrupts the Board meeting may be subject to removal from the meeting room.
11. The Board has the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in this policy.