Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School

Board of Trustees Policy

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees ("Board") of the Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School ("Charter School") recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Board Meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the Charter School and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for public participants to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.

To ensure that all individuals attending public meetings of the Charter School have the opportunity to observe the meeting and hear those participants who wish to address the Board, all members of the public attending all meeting shall be expected to: turn off or silence all cell phone, pagers, and other electronic devices; know that it is unlawful to disrupt public meetings and that individuals who do so may be prosecuted; and understand that the presiding officer may instruct that an individual be removed if the officer determines that the individual is disrupting the meeting.

Any member of the public may address the Charter School's Board of Trustees at a formally scheduled public Board Meeting in accordance with the procedures and limitations of this policy.

In order to allow the Board to fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, all citizens who wish to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent with the Board Secretary, or other designated Board member, prior to the start of the meeting and shall include the name of the participant, the topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable. Anyone who has not contacted the Board Secretary may be recognized at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Requests to participate can be made via first class mail to 925 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or emailed to upk5board@upcsk5.net.

Any person attending a meeting of the Board shall have the right to use electronic recording devices under the following rules:

1. No auxiliary lighting will be permitted.
2. Under no circumstances will recording devices or problems associated with them be permitted to interrupt or delay sessions of the Board.
3. Audio and video recording devices can be used from an individual's seat or from a location designated by the presiding Board officer.
4. An individual's right to record will be forfeited if there is an interference with the ability of others to observe the proceedings and all reasonable efforts have been made to attempt to correct the problem.
5. All taping shall begin when the meeting is called to order and termination of taping shall be at the time of adjournment.
6. Videotaping shall only be the proceedings and content of the meeting, and not attendees or otherwise.
7. No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The following guidelines shall be followed for persons or groups wishing to make statements to the Board at any meeting:

1. Participants must first be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name and any applicable group affiliation;
2. If questions or problems relate to issues of a personal nature, i.e. complaints about the conduct or performance of a particular Charter School employee, the Board may direct that such issues be discussed with the CEO or may go into executive session to receive presentations;
3. The agenda of Board meetings shall include opportunity for participants, without prior arrangements, to address the Board on any matter prior to the Board taking official action and at the conclusion of the business meeting;
4. Presentations and/or public comments made to the board shall be limited to a duration of three (3) minutes unless prior arrangements have been made and an extension of time has been granted;
5. The presiding officer may exercise discretion to extend the time limits;
6. Remarks on behalf of an organization or group may be presented through only one (1) speaker at each meeting, but additional representatives of the organization or group may submit written remarks to be included in the minutes of the meeting;
7. Comments on agenda items and other public comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; and
8. The presiding officer shall maintain control of all meetings and may terminate a participant's statement when it has exceeded the time limits or when it is threatening, obscene.

Persons refusing to follow the guidelines of the Board are subject to removal.

If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.

The presiding officer at each public Board meeting shall follow Board policy for the conduct of public meetings. When the presiding officer's ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.