

REVIEW OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS BYLAWS

When the Board adopted its Bylaws in August 2001, Article 8 was adopted in the following form:

Article 8: Appearances Before the Board

Individual or group representatives who desire to appear before the Board of Governors to discuss or initiate a subject within the Board's jurisdiction shall submit their request to the President to be received at least fifteen days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Board. The President, in consultation with the Chair, may either place the requested item on the agenda or reject it, notifying the individual or group of the reasons for his or her decision. The President may refer any such request to the Chair for referral to a committee of the Board.

When deemed proper, the Chair or a majority of the Board may waive these rules and hear any person on any subject, before either the committee of the whole or any committee of the Board.

Several persons have expressed concern to one or more Board members concerning the absence of a “public comment” process at each Board meeting. Public comment sessions are permitted. Existing law allows considerable discretion for the Board in whether to have such sessions and how to manage them.

OPTION 1: No Public Comment Session. Article 8 of the Bylaws would remain in its current form.

OPTION 2: Public Comment Sessions utilized. Article 8 of the Bylaws would be amended to reflect the procedures desired by the Board members. Issues to be considered would include:

- Whether any advance registration of speakers would be required (15 minutes prior to meeting would be the maximum).
- Whether (if so, how long) any fixed time limit would apply to individual speakers.

- Whether (if so, how long) any fixed time limit or quantity would apply for the public comment session.

Option 2 continued:

- Whether Board members will be permitted to interact with speakers and if so, how time would be managed.
- Whether the public comment session should be usually at the beginning or the end of the meeting.
- Whether the Chair will be authorized to modify the rules for the public comment session at his/her discretion.

The Jefferson County Board of Education uses the following policy:

1.10.5 Public Participation

Any person wishing to speak before the Board shall make request prior to the board meeting. Each group of callers is requested to name one of its members as spokesperson for said group. Each person or group will be allowed no more than ten minutes to make the presentation.

The Board, through its presiding officer, reserves the right to limit speakers in both time and numbers, not to exceed forty-five minutes. If the amounts of time or numbers of speakers require, the Board reserves the right to allow further time for public comment at the conclusion of items on the agenda.

All meetings of the Board shall be open to the general public, except during executive sessions pursuant to law.