



*Adopted: August, 1996*

*EMID 6067Board Policy 207*

*Revised: December 15, 2004; October, 2014*

## **207 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The EMID Board recognizes the importance of obtaining public input on matters under consideration for action. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to efficiently receive public input.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The procedures set forth in this policy are established by the EMID Board to efficiently receive public input on matters under consideration for action.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Public Hearings.**

Public hearings are required by law to be held concerning certain issues, including but not limited to, school closings (Minn. Stat. § 123B.51), education district establishment (Minn. Stat. § 123A.15), and agreements for secondary education (Minn. Stat. § 123A.30). Additionally, other public hearings may be held on EMID matters at the Board's discretion.

#### **B. Notice of Public Hearings.**

Public notice of a public hearing required by law shall be given as provided by the enabling legislation. Public notice of other hearings shall be given in the manner required for a regular meeting if held in conjunction with a regular meeting, in the manner required for a special meeting if held in conjunction with a special meeting, or as otherwise determined by the Board.

#### **C. Public Participation.**

The Board retains the right to require that those in attendance at a public hearing indicate their desire to address the Board and complete and file with the clerk of the Board an appropriate request form prior to the commencement of the hearing if the Board utilizes this procedure. In that case, any request to address the Board after the commencement of the hearing will be granted only at the discretion of the Board.

1. **Format of Request:** A written request of an individual or a group to



address the Board shall contain the name and address of the person or group seeking to address the Board. It shall also contain the name of the group represented, if any, and a brief statement of the subject to be covered or the issue to be addressed.

2. Time Limitation: The Board retains the discretion to limit the time for each presentation as needs dictate.
3. Groups: The Board retains the discretion to require that any group of persons who desire to address the Board designate one representative or spokesperson. In the event that the Board requires the designation of a representative or spokesperson, no other person in the group will be recognized to address the Board, except as otherwise determined by the Board Chair.
4. Privilege to Speak: A Board member should direct any remarks or questions through the chair. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the Board, or the proceedings may be directed to leave.
5. Personal Attacks: Personal attacks by anyone addressing the Board are unacceptable. Persistence in such remarks by an individual shall terminate that person's privilege to address the Board.
6. Limitations on Participation: Depending upon the number of persons in attendance seeking to be heard, the Board reserves the right to impose such other limitations and restrictions as necessary in order to provide an orderly, efficient and fair opportunity for those present to be heard.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 123A.30 (Agreements for Secondary Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.15 (Education District Establishment)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (School Closings)

***Cross References:***

EMID Policy 206 (Public Participation in Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations)