### 903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

1. **Purpose**
   - The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the community in Board meetings. The Board also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the district and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

2. **Authority**
   - The Spring-Ford Area Board of Education believes the community has the right to bring before the Board issues and concerns they may have about items on the agenda, or about things in general which affect the District or their children.

   Because of this belief and philosophy, the Board will schedule a time, at the beginning and conclusion of every meeting, to have an opportunity for community members to share their concerns with the Board.

   At the beginning of each Board meeting, the community will have an opportunity to share concerns and comment about items on the agenda. Each community member will have up to three (3) minutes in which to address the board. The Board will do all it possibly can to assure each member of the community an opportunity to speak on issues. However if a large group of people wish to discuss a specific topic, the Board reserves for itself, the right to limit participation and total time allocated to this part of the agenda. Once the public comment on agenda items is complete, only Board members will have an opportunity to speak on issues on the agenda. However, the chair may, at its discretion, permit discussion on selected items as the need arises.

   The Board requires that public participants be:

   - A resident or taxpayer of this District;
   - A resident of the District who is also an employee of the District must only speak at the Board Meeting involving matters of public concern. Employment based matters and/or matters involving operational concerns of the District should be address with an immediate supervisor.
   - Anyone representing a group in the community or School District;
- Representation of a firm eligible to bid on materials and/or services solicited by the Board, or
- District student.

Prior to adjournment, there will be an additional opportunity for the community to comment publicly. Again, each community member will have up to three (3) minutes in which to address the Board. Community members who spoke at the beginning of the meeting must yield the microphone to community members who have not spoken at the meeting before speaking for a second time in the meeting. No community member is allowed to exceed six (6) total minutes of public comment at any one meeting.

PA Statute
65 P.S.
271 et seq

Board Policy
No. 006