

Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ

BYLAWS FOR THE OPERATION  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OPERATION  
Board Meetings  
Public Comments/Conduct #1365

BYLAW

The Board recognizes the dignity, worth, and free speech rights of each member of the community and the importance of public comment/discourse at Board meetings. Public comments will be invited in advance of meetings and by the Board Chair during meetings.

The Board embraces, supports, and defends free speech, and it is the intent of the Board to promote and foster an atmosphere and environment where civil discourse takes place. The Board expects that each member of the community will treat other members with dignity and respect when public comments are made.

Adopted: December 10, 2020



the Board remotely will be unmuted by the meeting organizer to participate at the appropriate time and muted again following their comments.

## 2. Public Speakers

- a. Speakers must be recognized by the Board Chair prior to addressing the trustees and must identify themselves before making comments.
- b. Comments should be addressed to the Board as a whole and not to any individual trustee.
- c. Comments should be delivered within a reasonable period of time, generally not to exceed three minutes in duration, in the discretion of the Board Chair.
- d. All speakers addressing the trustees will refer to and treat other members of the community with dignity and respect.
- e. Written statements of public comments may be submitted to the Board Secretary at the end of the meetings.

## 3. The Board

- a. The Board Chair will invite individuals to speak during the Public Comments section of the meeting agenda or as deemed otherwise appropriate.
- b. Questions may be asked by the trustees for clarification or additional information from the speakers.
- c. The Board Chair may refer matters raised by the public, without debate or discussion, to the President for comment, further review, and/or subsequent response.
- d. The Board Chair reserves the right to interrupt, warn, or terminate speakers whose comments or behavior include: profanity or obscenity; personal threats or attacks; hateful epithets or demeaning language based on a person's race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or disability; yelling or screaming; or exceeding a reasonable period of time as determined by the Board Chair.

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