



ANTIFA STYLE TACTICS AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY COMMUNICATE TO A SCHOOL BOARD

Since the public schools have been “exposed” as a result of online learning during covid lock downs more and more parents are attending school board meetings, expressing their concerns and asking their elected officials to do something to stop the madness.

The meetings are typically emotional and passionate. Sometimes people cry, yell, plead and do whatever they feel will get their point across.

Parents have every right to feel these feelings and their reaction is understandable considering their children are being taught pornographic sex ed, critical race theory, diversity, equity and inclusion, while English, math and science scores continue to plummet.

But it is a common practice in many states that a [small minority of individuals](#) go from district to district board meetings, using the public comment period to disrupt the board meeting by shouting, grandstanding, and making a play for the evening news. They relish the cheers and claps from the people in attendance and take pride in being kicked out or causing the board to [shut down the meeting](#). My question is, how’s that workin’ for ya?

While these disrupters are patting themselves on the back and high fiving each other in the parking lot the remaining parents, grandparents and concerned citizens are left to deal with the fallout. When meetings are shut down because of one of these disrupters, public comment stops. During the covid lockdowns many boards learned that conducting business over Zoom was easier than dealing with unruly audience members, and many boards are quick to go back to online meetings.

Making changes in a school district requires developing relationships with the board even if you don’t agree with them. Testifying at a school board meeting is only the beginning. Having a conversation with board members before or after a board meeting is a way to start fostering a relationship. Requesting a phone call or an in person meeting or even serving on a committee that they are a part of, are all ways to develop a repour with board members.

When a board is forced to deal with loud and unruly audience members the result most likely will be they withdrawal from interacting with the public, switch meetings back to online, will only allow testimony from those who live within the district, stop listening to the pleas of parents even if delivered respectfully, and ignore the public all together. Parents are left with a board they can’t communicate with, can’t supply expert testimony if the expert lives outside of the district, and in some cases can’t testify at all because the board decides to discontinue public testimony and will only accept comments via email.

The end result is the disrupters congratulate themselves for a job well done, the parents in the district are left to try and fix the harm that has been done by the disruptors, and boards become defiant to the wishes of the public. A lot of damage is done and nothing is accomplished.

[Productive communication](#) with a board means you are respectful every time, even if you don’t agree with them. Make it a habit to go to the board meetings so you become a familiar face. Don’t always complain; try to mention something positive once in a while and thank the board for their service to the community. Try to offer solutions for your concerns. Ask if the board would consider conducting a town hall event outside of the board meeting so the public can ask questions and have a dialog. Suggest a community feedback group that meets with board members and the superintendent once a month to discuss issues in the district. And if you have a board that continues to be uncommunicative run to be on the school board or campaign good people to replace them.

