



Open Meetings Law Policy

This policy is for application to those libraries within the City of Buffalo (Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries) and Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System functions.

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) recognizes its duty as a public entity to perform public business in an open and public manner and to enable the public to be fully aware of and able to observe the performance of the Board. The B&ECPL shall abide by Article 7 of the New York State Public Officers Law when conducting public business.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Participation

The B&ECPL has opted to allow public comment at its Board of Trustees meetings, subject to the rules set forth in subsection B.

B. Rules for Public Comment

To ensure fairness for those who wish to participate, the following rules have been adopted:

1. Each speaker's remarks are limited to three (3) minutes in all cases.
2. Board members shall not respond to any remarks made during the public comment period, though the Board may ask clarifying questions.
3. If the speaker would like a response from the Board, the speaker must leave their name and a method of contact. A written response will be provided as soon as practicable.

III. RULES OF CONDUCT

All members of the public are expected to abide by the [B&ECPL Rules of Conduct](#) when attending or speaking at Board of Trustees meetings.

Adopted May 20, 2021 per Res. 2021-11.
Amended March 17, 2022 per Res. 2022-9.
Amended April 21, 2022 per Res. 2022-15.