

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and the media. Only those executive meetings where the Board discusses personnel, discipline of individual students, labor negotiations, or other matters where private sessions are required or permitted by law, shall be closed to the public and the media. However, all decisions reached during such executive sessions require public action at a regular or special Board Meeting.

Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the school district, and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule one or more periods during each meeting for public participation. It may set a time limit on the length of this period and/or a time limit for individual speakers.

If a presentation requires more than such time limit allows, the Superintendent shall be notified in advance so that the presentation may be considered for inclusion as a formal agenda item. For regular meetings, such requests should reach the Superintendent no later than Thursday noon preceding the meeting.

Comments and questions at a regular meeting be subjected to reasonable standards set by the Board. Comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting.

Ordinarily, the Board shall accept comments and questions from the public during a short period at the beginning of the meeting. The length of time scheduled for public discussion may be stated in the agenda, or determined by the chair, together with any time limit proposed for individual speakers.

The Board Chair shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves and state the town in which they live, for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to any time limits set. Any member of the public who refuses to yield the floor shall be asked by the Chair to yield; any member of the public who continues to refuse to yield shall be asked to leave. No member of the public may speak unless recognized by the Chair. Any member of the public who speaks out of turn, speaks over another member of the public, or speaks over a Board member, shall be reminded once to remain quiet. Any member of the public who refuses to remain quiet while others are speaking shall be asked to leave.

All public comments and questions shall be addressed to the Board Chair. Any member of the public who addresses individual Board members or other members of the public shall be reminded to address the Chair. Any member of the public who refuses to address the Chair after being reminded shall be asked to leave.

The Board shall give due attention to comments and contributions from the audience, but shall not be expected to respond or take actions immediately. Audience inquiries, other than simple questions, shall be referred to the Superintendent who shall investigate or

consider the matter and report to the citizen and to the Board. If Board action is indicated, the item may be included in the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

Members of the public may not expect to be recognized by the Board or a sub-committee Chairman as official business is being conducted. However, the Board or Committees may schedule interim public discussion periods on particular items. Exceptions may be made when a simple majority of the members present agree to hear public comment, questions or testimony.

Other business is periodically necessary for the Board to consider. When this is necessary and these items can't be placed on the regular agenda, the Chairman will need to determine if public forum is necessary for discussion on these items.