

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY – BEDH**

Committee meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school system. Meetings of the Committee are open to the public. Although Committee meetings are not public forums, the Committee will provide appropriate opportunities for citizens and employees to express opinions and concerns related to the matters under consideration be the Committee within the guidelines set forth in Committee policy BEDH, “Public Participation at Committee Meetings.” Please be aware of the following ground rules from our policy:

- √ Public comment will be allowed within set times within the agenda of full meetings of the School Committee.
- √ During the time set aside for public participation, the Chair is responsible for recognizing all speakers, who must provide name and town as they begin talking.
- √ The Chair may limit the time allotted for comments on a particular topic as well as the time each individual may speak. In the event of a sizeable audience, the Chair may require persons interested in speaking to sign up so they may be called on in a fair and efficient manner.
- √ All speakers are to address the Chair and direct questions or comments to particular Committee members or the Superintendent only with the approval of the Chair. Requests for information or concerns that require further research may be referred to the Superintendent to be addressed at a later time, not at this same meeting. Public comment is a time for the School Board to listen to the public.
- √ Speakers are not permitted to share gossip, make defamatory comments, or use abusive or vulgar language.
- √ In order to make efficient use of meeting time, the Committee asks speakers to avoid duplication or repetition of comments. The Committee requests that groups or organizations be represented by designated spokespersons.
- √ No complaints or allegations will be allowed in public concerning any person employed by the school system or against particular students. These matters will not be heard in a public meeting and must be referred through established policies and procedures.
- √ The Chair has the authority to stop any presentation that violates these guidelines or the privacy rights of others.
- √ Persons who disrupt the meeting may be asked to leave, and the Chair may request law enforcement assistance as necessary to restore order.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

***WELCOME***

**TO OUR  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**VEAZIE COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL**



1040 School Street  
Veazie, ME 04401  
207-947-6573  
[www.veaziecs.org](http://www.veaziecs.org)

## **WELCOME!**

On behalf of the Veazie School Committee, I wish to welcome you to our meeting. We appreciate visitors from the public and trust your attendance will be beneficial to both of us. We feel it is very important for interested persons to know about the workings of our school system and for us to be aware of what is important to the community. You are invited to participate in the meeting in accordance with the policies and rules established by this committee. – Valli Vel (Chair)

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Valli Vel	2023	Alexander Friess	2024
William Reed	2024	Bethany Tocci	2025
Kristen Bagley	2023		

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Superintendent of Schools	Timothy Tweedie
Business Manager	Lisa Swift

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Maine law charges school boards/committees with the responsibility to adopt policies that govern the school; provide for the management of the school property; and operate a school or provide for students to participate in PreK – grade 12 elsewhere as authorized by statute.

The committee concerns itself primarily with broad questions of policy rather than with administrative details. This is done essentially by selecting a superintendent and providing him/her with authority and direction. It is not the duty of the committee to operate the school but to see that it is well operated. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the superintendent and his/her staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system.

Members of the committee have authority only when acting as a committee officially and legally in session, meaning when a quorum of members is present. The committee shall not be bound in any way by an action or statement of an individual member except when such statement or action has been authorized by an official vote of the committee.

### **SUPERINTENDENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The position of Superintendent of Schools is created and required by state law to provide each school board/committee and district with educational leadership. Authority by statute is given to the superintendent to carry out the responsibilities assigned to him/her in relation to the roles assigned to school boards/committees.

### **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY - AC**

The school unit does not discriminate on the basis of sex or other protected categories in its education programs and activities, as required by federal and state laws/regulations.

Discrimination against and harassment of school employees because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, disability or genetic information are prohibited.

Discrimination against and harassment of students because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry or national origin, or disability are prohibited.

The Committee directs the school administration to implement a continuing program designed to prevent discrimination against all applicants, employees, students and other individuals having access rights to school premises and activities.

The school unit has designated and authorized an Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring compliance with all federal and state requirements relating to nondiscrimination, including sexual harassment. The Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator is a person with direct access to the Superintendent.

The school unit has implemented complaint procedures for resolving complaints of discrimination/harassment and sexual harassment under this policy. The school unit provides required notices of these complaint procedures and how they can be accessed, as well as the school unit's compliance with federal and state civil rights laws and regulations to all applicants for employment, employees, students, parents and other interested parties.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Veazie School Committee generally meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the school library. The agenda is posted at least *four* days in advance of each meeting on the Veazie Community School's website.

### **STANDARD COMMITTEE AGENDA**

- 1) Call of the Roll
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes
- 4) Adjustments to the Agenda
- 5) Public Comment
- 6) Acknowledgements
- 7) Committee Chair's Report
- 8) Personnel Resignations/Nominations
- 9) Principal's Report
- 10) Superintendent's Report
- 11) New Business
- 12) Old Business
- 13) Committee Policy
- 14) Request for Information
- 15) Executive Sessions
- 16) Next Meeting
- 18) Adjournment

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with Maine's Freedom of Access ("Right-to-Know") law, Committee meetings are held in public. The Committee may go into executive session, upon vote of 3/5 of the members present and voting, for consideration of certain matters specified in law (e.g., personnel, student suspension/expulsion, contracts to be negotiated, collective bargaining, consultations with an attorney concerning legal rights, pending litigation, and settlement offers). No final action may be taken in executive sessions.