

Dowagiac Union Schools: Public Comment Process for Online Board Meetings

Due to Governor Whitmer issuance of Executive Orders allowing, on a temporary basis, public meetings and hearings to be held remotely via video conferencing so that the risk of spreading of coronavirus (COVID-19) is reduced.

The Dowagiac Union Board of Education will hold its regularly scheduled meeting via teleconference and will post the meeting access link and phone number on the district's website by noon on the Friday before the regularly scheduled meetings of each month.

The district will use Zoom as its video conference provider. People will have the opportunity to join the meeting via video conferencing or by telephone.

As normal, there will be a hearing of citizens comment session during meeting. This section is provided early in the meeting, and is a time where the public may address the Board regarding items on the agenda or general school functions questions. During these unique times, the Superintendent will recognize persons wishing to address Board. One person will be allowed to talk at any given time so that all have the opportunity to hear. The standard three (3) minute per person will be followed. Each person that wishes to address the Board, once recognized to speak, will need to provide their name and address for the record.

Since this will be the first time the district has attempted an interactive remote meeting, we want to be accessible even if a technology glitch occurs during the meeting. One way is to provide a way for people to ask questions in advance of the meeting.

To avoid the possibility of a technical glitch during the meeting, questions and comments may be submitted in advance by emailing: jwhan@dowagiacschools.org or calling: 269.782.4400 by 12pm on the day of the School Board meeting. Correspondence received by noon on the day of a meeting will be distributed to Board Members prior the meeting. Please include your name and address so the Board Secretary can accurately place your comments in the public record.

Responses to questions and concerns may be given during the public comment section by the Board President or the superintendent. It is also possible that it will be stated that a response will be provided at a later date. This period of time is for comments to be address to the Board of Education and is not a time for discussion.

Any questions on this policy for Public Engagement for Online Public Meetings should be directed to Jonathan Whan, Superintendent at: jwhan@dowagiacschools.org or by calling: 269.782.4400