

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before Amber-Pocasset Board of Education may be heard, and at the same time, conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the board establishes the following procedures.

1. Thirty minutes shall be set aside for public participation for each school board meeting. Individuals may address the board on items of school business.
2. Individuals will be limited to five minutes for their presentation unless upon request the president extends the allotted time.
3. If thirty (30) minutes is inadequate to hear all who wish to speak, the board, by majority vote may extend the allotted time or call a special meeting to give the public an additional opportunity to address the board.
4. Every person who wishes to speak at a school board meeting must be recognized by the presiding officer and state his or her name and the subject matter of the presentation.
5. The presiding officer shall then determine whether the subject matter the speaker wishes to address is a proper subject for the board to hear before he/she recognizes the speaker.
6. The subject matter for public participation at special school board meetings shall be related to the call of the meeting.
7. Speakers may offer such objective criticism of school operations and programs as concern them. In public sessions, the board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel unless the speaker or a representative of his/her group has first contacted the superintendent regarding the individual and the issue has not been resolved to the speaker's satisfaction.
8. Persons appearing before the board are reminded that, although requests may be directed to the board, action and/or answers to many questions must be deferred pending board consideration.
9. If action or answers to questions are deferred, the board will make an effort to answer questions or reply to requests at a later date through a medium best suited for such answer or reply.
10. Members of the board of education and the superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the board.
11. The presiding officer shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to these rules.

LEGAL NOTE: Enumerated item 10 could begin "discussion" of an item that is not listed on the posted agenda. This could be construed as a violation of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. The OSSBA would recommend removal of item 10 to prevent potential problems