

BEDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Category R

The Board encourages citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and so that the Board may have opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters as are properly considered in non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.

Public comments at the beginning of the meeting are to allow community members to comment on the items on the agenda prior to Board action. The Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

1. Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented. A sign-in sheet will be available before the meeting for anyone wishing to speak.
2. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Written remarks are encouraged. The Chair will try to limit comments and will keep the meeting moving along.
2. Speakers may offer comments on such school operations and programs as concern them. In public session, however, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor complaints against any person connected with the school system. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals, which should be referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.
3. Community members should not expect any immediate response to questions or comments. If the Board has already taken a position on a topic, the Board Chair will state the Board's position.
4. Copies of the agenda and the various handouts will be available at the meeting in the folder marked "Public Information." There is also an envelope marked "Suggestions/Comments for the Board," where a community member may place a note for the Board instead of speaking in public.

The Board vests in its Chairperson or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individuals when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to content or time limitation.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded, as a point of information, that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public
RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions

First Reading: 11/27/2007

Second Reading: 1/22/2008

Adopted: 3/25/2008