

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board as it relates to school policies, programs and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. 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. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

1. The Board will set aside 15 minutes on the agenda for citizens to address the Board. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.
2. In order to comply with minute requirements of RSA 91-A:2, speakers must provide their name and address.
3. Individual speakers will be allotted 3 minutes per person. Speakers may not relinquish allotted time to another speaker. For specific meetings and/or specific agenda items, the board may at the outset of the public comment period increase or decrease the individual time limit for all speakers.
4. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy **BEDB**, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent in accord with Policies KE and KEB.
5. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion at Board meetings to agenda items only. Members of the public who wish to speak at Board meetings regarding an agenda item are encouraged to contact the Board Chair prior to the Board meeting. Members of the public wishing to suggest an item of business should do so according to Policy BEDH.
6. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Questions shall be directed to the Board Chair.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions

Adopted: May 3, 2004

Amended: October 19, 2011

Amendment First Reading: September 15, 2021