

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.

Rules of Order

1. 15 minutes will be set aside for citizens to address the Board. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person. There will be one opportunity for public comment on items that are on the agenda which will be at the beginning of the public meeting.
2. Members of the public may offer comments on agenda items only. The Board will not entertain comments on items that do not appear on the agenda. Requests to address the Board on matters not on the agenda must be presented to the Superintendent and must set forth the specifics of the subject to be addressed. When appropriate, the Board may place such requests on the agenda.
3. 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. Any comment that refers to personnel and/or students will not be tolerated as per RSA 91-A:3 and will be considered out of order.
4. 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.
5. Any comments which do not adhere to the above rules of order, or which disrupt the official business of the Board may be ruled out of order by the Chair. Repeated disruption may result in the individual being asked to leave the meeting. Obscene speech, comments threatening bodily harm, or other unprotected speech will not be tolerated.
6. In order to comply with the minute requirements of RSA 91-A:2, II, speakers shall identify themselves clearly for the record.

Legal References:

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

Mrs. Mary Collins, Chair
Mrs. Sheena Robbins, Vice Chair
Mrs. Caitlin Gelinias
Mrs. Brennan Peaslee
Mrs. Sandra Taliaferro

Adopted by the Board: 6 December 2000

Reaffirmed by the Board: 6 May 2002

Reaffirmed by the Board: 2 January 2008

Reaffirmed by the Board: 19 September 2012

Reaffirmed by the Board: 21 August 2013

Reaffirmed by the Board: 4 June 2019

Reaffirmed by the Board: 15 March 2022