

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. 30 minutes will be set aside for the public to address 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. Speakers will only be able to speak once, and speakers may not relinquish their speaking time to other public speakers.
2. If there are not enough speakers at the beginning of the meeting to exhaust the full 30 minutes, the Board will move forward and conduct the business of the board agenda. The amount of time left from the 30 minutes will be noticed, and the board chair will recognize a member of the public for comment should a new member of the public enter the meeting.
3. 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.
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. 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.

Mary Collins, Chairperson
Brennan Peaslee, Vice Chairperson
Sandra Taliaferro
Bob Ouellette
Robert DeColfmack

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
Revised by the Board: 21 August 2013
Reaffirmed by the Board: 4 June 2019
Revised by the Board: 7 February 2023

6. 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.
7. In order to comply with the minute requirements of RSA 91-A:2, II, speakers shall identify themselves clearly for the record.

Legal Reference:

RSA [91-A](#):2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA [91-A](#):3, Non-Public Sessions

RSA 189:74

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