

## 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. The first 15 minutes will be on the agenda after the Agenda Review and the last 15 minutes will be on the agenda after Follow Up. Speakers may make a comment for three minutes on a topic on the agenda at each 15 minute session. Speakers will only be able to speak once, and speakers may not relinquish their speaking time to other public speakers.
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.
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.

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

**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  
**Approved by the Board:** 16 April 2024

6. 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, Meeting Open to Public*  
*RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions*  
*RSA 189:74*

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