

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. To permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the procedures described in this policy will be followed.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the Board will be recognized by the Chair. After identifying themselves, speakers will make brief comments. A speaker will not be recognized for a second time on a particular item unless time remains after all have been heard. Speakers must observe rules of common etiquette. The Chair may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board may set a time limit on the length of public comment and/or a time limit for individual speakers.

The Board will ask members of the public to express an opinion prior to Board action on agenda items dealing with policy or the expenditure of funds. Requests to address the Board on matters not on the agenda must be made in writing to the Superintendent at least one week prior to a regular meeting date and must set forth the specifics of the subject to be addressed. When appropriate, the Superintendent will place such requests on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

Personalities or complaints about specific individuals may not be injected. A speaker in violation of these rules may be required to leave in order to permit the orderly consideration of the matters for which the meeting was called.

Except in an emergency, the Board will not attempt to decide upon any question before full examination and an opportunity for the Superintendent to research the matter and make his/her recommendation to the Board.

CROSS REFERENCE: BEDB (was BDDB), Agenda Format

LEGAL REFERENCE: Title 1 MRSA § 403

ADOPTED: April 8, 1986

REVISED: January 21, 1992
 April 11, 2000