

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools, and therefore are not public meetings but meetings held in public. Although there is no legal requirement that the public be given an opportunity to speak at board meetings, it will be the policy of this board to afford that opportunity in accordance with the following procedures:

Public Participation

Only items on the published board agenda will be discussed at any meeting of the Board, unless the Superintendent or a board member requests an addition to the agenda of a regular meeting and the board members present approve in accordance with board policy. Members of the public who wish to make formal presentations before the Board shall make request in advance in accordance with the board's agenda setting policy.

The Board may allot a time for general public comment on the regular meeting agenda. When the Board agrees to do this, no individual may speak more than once. When public comment has been permitted, the speaker should:

1. Stand during the appropriate period and be recognized by the presiding officer.
2. State name and address for the minutes.
3. Limit comments to no more than five minutes, unless the presiding officer waives the time limit.

Groups will be urged to designate a spokesperson. When there is a large number of speakers to be heard or if pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the presiding officer may decide to shorten the length of time allowed each speaker and/or limit the total time to be devoted to public comment.

Complaints

The Board has adopted policies governing patron complaints. The public is required to seek redress through these policies. The public will be prevented from commenting on a topic if it is:

1. Governed by a district complaint policy and the complainant has not followed the procedure contained in policy and/or the policy prohibits the public from bringing the complaint before the Board.
2. Concerns a topic that is prohibited by law from disclosure to the public (e.g., student's educational record).

Conduct and Remarks Out of Order

Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of board business cannot be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if, after being called to order, s/he persists in improper conduct or remarks. Furthermore, any individual who is persistently disruptive of a school board meeting may be removed from that meeting by order of the presiding officer.

Questions and Comments by Board and District Administrator

The presiding officer or an appropriate member of the administration will answer all pertinent questions verbally or in writing at a later time. There will be no dialogue between board members and the public at board meetings except to clarify the nature of questions or comments.

Discussion of a Motion

When a motion is before the Board, discussion will be limited to board members and the Superintendent except as the presiding officer requests information.

End Montpelier School Policy BCBA.....Adopted: 7/19/23