

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

1. 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. Fifteen minutes will be set aside early in the meeting for citizens to address the Board under the agenda item listed as "Public Participation." This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person.
2. Members of the public will also be able to address the Board's agenda items at the end of the Board meeting. Comments from the public will be limited to only those items discussed by the Board in the course of the meeting.
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. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

Legal References:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions

1st Reading: October 1, 2007

2nd Review: October 15, 2007

3rd Review: November 5, 2007

Adoption: November 19, 2007