

# Ashland School District 5

Code: **BDDH**  
Adopted: 5/23/02  
Readopted: 5/08/17  
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

## Public Comment at Board Meetings

### General Guidelines

In order to preserve the democratic process through orderly discussion, the following procedures shall be used by the Board when delegations come before it requesting a hearing regarding a critical issue to be decided by the Board:

1. The Board chair shall briefly state the position of the Board and give reasons thereof, except that those matters which are, in the opinion of the Board private and/or personal in nature, will not be divulged. If official action on the issue has not yet been taken, the chair may so state and may summarize briefly the arguments for and against the issue to be decided;
2. The clerk shall secure the names and residences of all those patrons of the district wishing to be heard before the Board;
3. After the speakers for and against the issue have been heard, the chair may indicate that questions pertaining directly to the issue will be answered by the Board;
4. The Board may set a reasonable time limit for each speaker and for answering questions.
5. The Board requests that individuals respect student and personnel privacy.

### Requests from Persons or Groups

1. The Board has provided an opportunity for any interested person or persons, representing themselves or an organization, to address the Board;
2. If the topic to be presented is not included on the agenda, the Board may move to do one of the following:
  - a. Determine if the topic should be referred to the administration for further information and/or recommendations;
  - b. Determine if a future meeting of the Board should be scheduled to consider the topic;
  - c. Determine if a compelling situation exists, and if so, discuss the topic at once. No formal Board action shall normally be taken in relation to a topic which does not appear on the written agenda.

## **Petitions**

Petitions may be accepted at any meeting of the Board. No action will be taken in response to a petition before the next regular meeting. Petitions will be referred to the superintendent for consideration and recommendation of appropriate action.

## **Criticisms of Staff Members**

Speakers may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints concerning individual district personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. The chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 165.535](#)  
[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610](#) to -192.690

[ORS 332.057](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006).  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

### **Cross Reference(s):**

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda  
KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making