

Canby School District 86

Code: **BDDH**
Adopted: 1/23/03
Readopted: 12/14/17
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

Public Comment at Board Meetings

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, shall be open to the public. The Board invites patrons of the district to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. Members of the public are also encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids¹ and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities will be available at no charge to the individual. All auxiliary aids and/or service requests must be made with appropriate advance notice. Should the Board demonstrate such requests would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, an alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Audience

During an open session of a Board meeting, members of the public are invited to present comments during the portion of the agenda so designated. At the discretion of the Board chair, further public comment may be allowed.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request the superintendent consider placing an item on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Procedures for Public Comment at Meetings

Procedures shall be established for public comments in meetings of the Board open to the public. The purpose of these procedures shall be to inform the public on how to effectively participate in Board meetings in the best interests of the individual, the district and the patrons. The information shall be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public meeting of the Board.

¹Auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to, such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Braille materials and large print.

1. Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item is limited to a designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the Board chair.
2. A visitor speaking during the meeting may introduce a topic not on the published agenda. The Board, at its discretion, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing and reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration for action or for study.
3. Any person invited by the Board chair to speak to the Board at a meeting should state his/her name and residence and if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A group of people with a common purpose should designate a spokesman to speak for the group.
4. Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The Board chair may exercise discretion to establish a time limit on discussion or oral presentation by visitors.
5. Questions asked by the public, when possible, will be answered by the Board chair or referred to the superintendent for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the Board chair, be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.
6. At the discretion of the Board chair, anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as an individual or as a member of a group, on any agenda item or other topic, may do so by providing the Board secretary with a complete registration card prior to the Board meeting in order to allow the chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.

Petitions

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

Comments Regarding Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs. The Board shall not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member, nor against any person connected with the school system. The Board chair shall direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL - Public Complaints for Board consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. The association contract governing the employee's rights will be followed. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, his/her supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

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 (2012); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist., 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist., 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).