

Coos Bay School District 9

Code: **BDDH**
Adopted: 11/09/92
Readopted: 11/02/09
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

Public Participation in Board Meetings

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites citizens of the district to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the program and operation of the schools. Members of the public are also encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board either by placing items on the agenda or during the portion of meeting time reserved for public input.

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 auxiliary¹ aids and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons 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, alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Procedures for Public Participation in Meetings

Procedures will be established for public participation in meetings of the Board open to the public. At a minimum, these procedures will require that persons wishing to make a presentation register on a "sign-in" sheet which is provided. Information on this sheet will include at least the person's name, contact information, group (if any), and the topic to be discussed.

Any person who wishes to speak to the Board should state his or 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.

Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The chair may exercise discretion to establish a time limit on discussion or oral presentation by a visitor on any topic.

Questions asked by the public will, when possible, be answered immediately by the chair or referred to other Board members or staff members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the chair, be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.

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

At the pleasure of the chair, persons may participate in general Board discussions if it is appropriate and done in an orderly manner.

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 school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear personal complaints concerning school 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

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 165.535](#)

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)

[ORS 165.540](#)

[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).

Cross Reference(s):

BDDA - Notification of Board Meetings

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda

BDDF - Conduct of Board Meetings

KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making