

Public Comment in Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites district citizens to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the school system. Members of the public also are 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, alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Audience

During an open session of a Board meeting, members of the public may be specifically invited to present concerns during the designated portion of the agenda. At the discretion of the chair, further public participation may be allowed.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request the superintendent place an item of concern on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled meeting. Such requests shall be at the superintendent's discretion in consultation with the Board chair.

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.

Procedures for Public Comment in Meetings

The Board will establish procedures for public comment in open meetings. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public how to effectively comment in Board meetings for the best interests of the individual, the district and the patrons. The information will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public Board meeting.

Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item is limited to its designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the chair.

A visitor speaking during the meeting may introduce a topic not on the published agenda. PUBLIC COMMENT is on the agenda immediately following CORRESPONDENCE and before ACTION items are considered. Anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as an individual or as a representative of a group, will be given the opportunity at this time. To assist the presiding officer, any individual desiring to speak shall stand and be recognized, give his/her name and the group, if any, that is represented. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted, a speaker shall be limited to three minutes. Total time allotted for Public Comment during the meeting will be 20 minutes.

Questions asked by the public shall, when possible, be answered by the Board or referred to staff members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Board or administrative staff for study and response at a future meeting. The Board will not take action on an item introduced during Public Comment as this would constitute an illegal act on the part of the Board.

Any person who is invited by the chair to speak to the Board during a meeting should state his/her name and address and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.

Petitions

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

Criticisms of Staff Members

A speaker may offer criticism of school operations and programs that may concern them, but the Board will not hear complaints in public session against any employee of the district. Complaints of district personnel will be heard in executive session. Other channels provide for consideration by the Board and disposition of complaints involving individuals.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

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

[ORS 192.610 - 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