

# Jewell School District 8

Code: **BDDH**  
Adopted: 1/21/98  
Readopted: 7/28/08  
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

## **Public Participation in Board Meetings**

Board meetings are meetings of the Board held for the express purpose of conducting district business. 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 schools.

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 aids 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.

### **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 must be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

### **Procedures for Public Participation in Meetings**

The Board will establish procedures for public participation in open meetings. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public how to effectively participate 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 any item is limited to its designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the chair. All visitors wanting to address the Board must submit, in writing, a request to do so prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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.

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

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

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 chair with a completed registration card prior to the Board meeting in order to allow the chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.

The Board chair should be alert to see that all visitors have been acknowledged and thanked for their presence and especially for any contributed comments on agenda issues. Similar courtesy should be extended to members of staff who have been in attendance. Their return for future meetings should be welcomed

### **Criticisms of Staff Members**

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints concerning individual school personnel. The chairperson will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

### **Petitions**

Petitions may be accepted at any regular Board meeting. Petitions will be referred to the superintendent for consideration and recommendation.

END OF POLICY

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#### **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).