

Public Participation in Board Meetings

The Board desires citizens of the district to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and that the Board may have the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public, with the exception of executive sessions.

Recognizing its responsibility for proper governance of the schools and therefore the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board shall schedule a period during each regular Board meeting called Communications from the Public. The length of the period of time designated for Communications from the Public shall be governed by the Board chair and generally shall not exceed a total of 15 minutes unless extended by action of the Board. The Board, at its discretion, may limit the amount of time for each individual speaker. The Board chair shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers who shall properly identify themselves.

Comments or questions at a regular meeting may deal with any topic related to the Board's conduct of the schools and as a courtesy to the Board and employees shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Anyone wishing to speak before the Board is encouraged to inform the superintendent of the desire to do so and of the topic to be discussed as early as possible prior to the meeting to permit orderly scheduling or remarks on the agenda, or research into questions the speaker may wish to present;
2. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them.

The Board asks that Board policy KL - Public Complaints be utilized for the disposition of legitimate complaints involving school personnel or any person connected with the school system.

Questions asked by the public regarding Board policy issues shall, when possible, be answered by the chair. Administrative matters will be referred to administrative staff, as deemed appropriate.

Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Board or administrative staff for consideration and later response.

Members of the public will not generally be recognized by the chair as the Board conducts its official business except when the Board schedules in advance an interim public discussion period on a particular agenda item.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded as a point of information that the members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

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.

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; 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):

BDDA - Notification of Board Meetings
BDDC - Construction of Agenda/Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials
KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making

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.