

# North Santiam School District

Code: **BDDH-AR**  
Adopted: 7/01/97  
Readopted: 12/17/09

## Public Participation in Board Meetings

The Board welcomes the public's comments on topics and concerns that affect the education of students. When stating an opinion before the Board, a statement of facts on which the opinion is based is particularly helpful to the Board in making a decision. The Board is also interested in your comments for viable solutions and ways of involving others who would be affected by the offered solutions.

Anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as a group or individual, may do so by providing the Board Secretary with a completed registration card prior to the meeting. This allows the chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.

Each person invited by the chair to speak shall be given 3 minutes. The chairman may, at his/her discretion, establish a time limit for the discussion of a particular issue. The person 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.

The public participation section of the meeting will be for a maximum of 30 minutes, unless there is a consensus of the Board to increase the time allotment.

Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who causes a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so may be declared a trespasser.

### Items on the Agenda

Speakers may speak to items on the published agenda only during the designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the chair.

The Board may confer on proposals, inquiries, or requests brought up at public participation and may require that it be submitted in writing. The Board reserves the right to refer the matter to the superintendent to investigate and report back at a future meeting or to the individual or group with the proposal, inquiry, or request. The Board may refer matters that would require a hearing to a hearing officer for final resolution.

### Items Not on the Agenda

Issues which are not on the agenda may be spoken to during the public participation section of the agenda.

Questions asked by the public, when possible, will be answered immediately by the chair or referred to the superintendent for reply. Questions requiring investigation will be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time. The Board Chair will determine with the superintendent if it will be placed on a future agenda. The chair reserves the right to limit public debate on an issue(s) brought before the Board.

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints concerning individual school personnel. The chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate person for consideration and disposition of the concern.

**Attorney General’s Public Records and Meeting Manual states: “The right of public attendance guaranteed by the Public Meetings Law does not include the right to participate by public testimony or comment.”**

Public participation will be available at the discretion of the Board.