

**North Wasco County  
School District 21**

Code: **BDDH**  
Adopted: 6/27/96  
Revised/Readopted: 6/23/04; 10/25/07; 10/22/15;  
3/22/18  
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

## **Public Participation in Board Meetings**

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. Board meetings, however, are meetings held in public, not public meetings.

Attendance of the public at Board meetings shall be encouraged. The Board shall solicit the advice and counsel of community members in planning and operating the schools. The proposed agenda for all regular meetings shall be mailed on request to the press and radio at least 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

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 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**

The Board wishes to provide the opportunity for patrons to address the Board and present their concerns. The Board will schedule a period of time during each regular meeting for public participation. Community members who wish to present any matter related to the schools are encouraged to make their request in writing to the superintendent by Monday preceding the Thursday meeting.

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

Any person who is invited by the chair to speak to the Board at a meeting should state his/her name and residence, and if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. The patron will be limited to a three-minute presentation for the issue. If a group of persons wish to speak to an issue, a spokesperson will be selected to speak for the group or to arrange for a group of speakers. The total presentation will be limited to 10 minutes. Patrons with opposing views may speak for up to 10 minutes.

The Board will take no action on an issue that is not listed on the agenda until the next Board meeting in order to give the Board time to research the matter or to decide upon a course of action. The Board chair may waive this requirement upon emergency conditions.

While the Board wants to provide for input, it must conduct its meetings properly and efficiently and allow sufficient time for other items on the agenda. Consequently, when the audience is larger than 20 persons, the public may be allowed to participate in the discussion only if time permits.

## **Audience**

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

## **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.

## **Comments Regarding Staff Members**

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL/GBM - Complaints for consideration of a legitimate complaints involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, his/her supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

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### **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 (2017); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

*Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist.*, 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

*Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist.*, 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).

### **Cross Reference(s):**

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda