North Wasco County
School District 21

Code: **BDDH**
Adopted: 6/27/96
Readopted: 6/23/04, 10/25/07
Orig. Code(s): Chenowith 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 citizens 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.

This policy does not apply to individual employees or employee associations. Such individual or groups are directed to Board policy GBM - Staff Complaints or to the grievance procedure of their agreement, as appropriate, to resolve their concerns.

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. Citizens 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

A patron that wishes to bring an issue before the Board may do so during the regular meeting by completing the appropriate form. 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 the issue 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.

Criticisms of Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear personal complaints concerning school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. The chair will direct the visitor to the superintendent for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals, as provided in Board policy KL - Public Complaints.

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. Sections 12101-12213; 29 CFR Part 1630 (2000)