

## **Public Participation in Board Meetings**

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites citizens of the district to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. Members of the public are also encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure that 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 in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be given to qualified individuals with disabilities.

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 that 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.

The Board meeting is not, of course, a public meeting, but rather a meeting of a public board conducting business in public. In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, conduct its meetings properly and effectively, the Board adopts the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

1. Anyone wishing to speak before the Board on any agenda item, either as an individual or as a member of a group, may do so by signing the speaker's register prior to the Board meeting. This procedure will help the chair provide adequate time for each speaker and agenda item;
2. Any individual desiring to speak will give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented;
3. The presentation should be brief and concise and should be held to no more than three minutes;
4. Speakers may offer objective criticisms of district operations and programs that are of a concern to them; but in public session, the Board will not hear personal complaints of district personnel or any person connected with the district. The chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals;
5. The Board vests in its chair or other presiding officer the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when those remarks do not adhere to the established rules;

6. Questions asked by the public will, when possible, be answered immediately by the chair or referred to other Board members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the Board, be referred to the superintendent for response at a later date;
7. 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.

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).

**Cross Reference(s):**

BDDA - Notification of Board Meetings  
BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda  
KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making