

Public Participation in Board Meetings/Public Hearings

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 they can become acquainted with the program and operation of the schools. 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 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.

Participation Generally

During an open session of a Board meeting, members of the public are invited to present concerns during the portion of the agenda so designated. At the discretion of the Board chair, further public participation may be allowed. The chair will determine the length of all presentations.

Procedures will be established for the participation in meetings of the Board open to the public. The purpose of those procedures will be to inform the public how to participate effectively in Board meetings in the best interests of the individual, district and community. The procedures will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public meeting of the Board.

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.

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.

Criticisms of Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear personal complaints against school personnel or others connected with the school system. The chair will direct the speaker to the superintendent to determine the nature and appropriate resolution of legitimate complaints against school personnel or others connected with the school system.

Public Hearings

The Board will hold public hearings as are required by law and will follow appropriate procedures. The Board will establish procedures for such hearings as may be required or necessary to ascertain the ideas and opinions of the community on an item of interest or to facilitate the orderly resolution of questions or concerns of the Board or community.

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. §§ 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 - Board Meeting Agenda
KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making