

## **Public Comment at Board Meetings and Public Hearings**

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites community members 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 aids<sup>1</sup> 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 an undue financial and administrative burden, an alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

### **Participation Generally**

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

### **Request for an Item on the Agenda**

A member of the public may request the Board chair consider placing an item on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

### **Procedures for Public Comment**

Procedures will be established for public comment 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. (See BDDH-AR)

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<sup>1</sup>Auxiliary aids may 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.

## **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 individual district personnel or others connected with the school system. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving such individuals.

## **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

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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 (2012); 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):**

BDDA - Notification of Board Meetings

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda

KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making