

Saint Helens School District 502

Code: **BDDH**
Adopted: 9/23/02
Revised/Readopted: 2/26/07; 2/08/12
Orig. Code(s): BDDH

Public Participation in Board Meetings

All meetings of the Board except 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 their schools. Members of the public are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board.

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.

Visitors to Address the Board

During an open session of a Board meetings, subjects not on the agenda may be presented for Board consideration by members of the audience during the time set aside for “Visitors to Address the Board”. The public is specifically invited to present concerns during this portion of the agenda.

Public or Patron Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request that an item of concern be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting by so notifying the superintendent in writing by noon of the Thursday preceding the Wednesday Board meeting.

Procedures for Public Participation in Meetings

Procedures will be established for public participation of the public in meetings of the Board open to the public. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public as to how to effectively participate in Board meetings. These written procedures will be accessible to all patrons attending a public meeting of the Board.

Any patron speaking to the Board should state his/her name and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A group with a common purpose should designate one person to speak for the group.

The Board, at its discretion, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing, and reserves the right to refer the matter to administration for action, for study, or for a report at a subsequent meeting.

¹Auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to, such services and devices as qualified 1 interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Brailled materials and large print.

Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The chair may exercise discretion to extend the time limit on discussion or oral presentation by a visitor on any topic.

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

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 complaints concerning school personnel in a regular session. The chair will direct such complaints to the appropriate means for Board consideration.

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).

Cross Reference(s):

BDDA - Notification of Board Meetings
BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda
BDDF - Conduct of Board Meetings
KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making
KLD - Public Complaints about District Personnel