

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the board's business as it relates to school policies, programs, and operations. The Board encourages parents and New Hampshire residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the schools' operations and programs.

All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter a non-public session at any time, by the provisions RSA 91-A:3.

To assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules about public participation at Board meetings:

1. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes per person, and the number of speakers will be unlimited.
2. Members of the public may offer comments on agenda items only. The Board will not entertain comments on items not appearing on the agenda. Requests to address the Board on matters not on the agenda must be presented to the Executive Director and set forth the specifics of the subject to be addressed. When appropriate, the Board may place such requests on the agenda.
3. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDA, and the laws about student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda to be adequately discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel, or students will be directed to the Executive Director in accordance with Policy ACG.
4. All speakers are to conduct themselves civilly. Obscene, libelous, defamatory or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that board members are not authorized to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

### Legal References:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSE 91-A:3.

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