

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board as it relates to school policies, programs and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board will 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 non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions RSA 91-A:3.

In order 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 pertaining to public participation at Board meetings.

1. Time will be set aside for Goffstown residents or those permitted under the AREA Agreement, and/or parent/guardian of tuition students to address the Board regarding matters of the School District. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes per person. The duration of public comment will be at the discretion of the Chair, and will be no less than 30 minutes in total or when there are no further comments, whichever comes first.
2. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent in accordance with Policy KE and KEB.
3. In public session however, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor complaints against any person connected with the school system. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals, which should be referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.
4. The Board vests in its Chairperson, designee or other presiding officer, the authority to terminate the remarks of any individuals when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to content or time limitations.
5. The Board vests in its Chairperson, designee other presiding officer the authority to determine whether any complaint or public comment has its remedy in collective bargaining agreement and to terminate any remarks, regardless of whether the speaker is a member of the bargaining unit.
6. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. 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 to speak if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority 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.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
(continued)**

References: Policy BEDB - Agenda Preparation and Disseminations
Policy KE – Public Complaints
Policy KEB – Complaints About School Personnel

Legal References:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open in Public
RSA 91-A:3, Public Records and Meetings: Non-Public Sessions
RSA 189:74, School Board Public Comment Period

Proposed: 06/15/1998
Adopted: 08/10/1998
Revised: 11/01/1999
Adopted: 08/22/2005
Revised: 10/22/2007
Adopted: 06/16/2008
Proposed: 12/21/2009
Adopted: 02/15/2010
Proposed: 01/24/2011
Adopted: 03/07/2011
Proposed: 09/19/2022
Adopted: 11/07/2022

NHSBA Review: 04/14/14