

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

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All meetings of the Board or its subcommittees will comply with the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

The Board recognizes its responsibility to conduct the business of the district in an orderly and efficient manner. When the pressure of board business is severe, or when a large number of people wish to speak on matters before the Board, reasonable rules of participation may be used to insure that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion, and that the business at hand is completed in a timely manner.

The Board will provide opportunities for public participation at its meetings prior to board action on any item on the board agenda in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. Persons who may address the Board prior to board action on items on the board agenda:
 - 1. Any district resident
 - 2. School staff members, students, and parents
 - 3. Individuals who have been requested by the Superintendent or the Board to present a given subject
 - 4. Persons who are directly affected by matters on the board agenda
 - 5. Others at the discretion of the Board.

- B. To speak to an item on the agenda:
 - 1. The Chair will ask for comments on the agenda items before action is taken by the Board.
 - 2. When the pressure of board business is extreme or the number of people wishing to speak is large, the Board may authorize the Chair to use a speakers' list. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to sign the speakers' list, indicating which agenda item will be addressed.

- C. Time limit for speakers. The Board may, when the number of people wishing to speak is large, or when the pressure of Board business is severe, limit the time for each speaker, and may authorize the Chair to restrict each speaker to one opportunity to be heard on a given topic.

- D. Public input on items not on the agenda. There will be time set aside for public input on items not on the agenda at every regular, special or emergency meeting of the Board. The time allotted to this item will be assigned by the Chair or the person responsible for organizing the agenda. The Chair may rule out of order any presentation to the Board which breaches the privacy or other rights of students, parents, or school employees, or which does not comply with board policy on complaints.

Date Warned: 8/3/01

Date Adopted: 8/17/01

Legal Reference(s): 1 VSA § 312 et seq.; 16 VSA § 554(b)

Cross Reference: