

**NEW BOSTON SCHOOL BOARD
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 School Board encourages and welcomes public attendance at Board meetings so that the public may become more acquainted with the operation and program of the school. All official meetings of the Board will be open to the 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 into non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions of 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, the Board may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings. If an individual has a question during public comment, the individual can expect an answer either via e-mail and/or the Board will respond to their question at their next Board meeting.

1. Persons wishing to be heard by the Board can do so in two ways: Written and In-person.
 - Written – Persons wishing to submit public comment must do so in advance at least 1 business day prior to the School Board meeting by mail, courier, electronic mail, or presented in person. Written comments must be addressed to the School Board and will contain name and address of the commenter and will be entered into the public minutes.
 - In-person – Persons can be heard during “Public Comment” at the beginning and the end of the agenda. The section at the beginning is to accommodate visitors who wish to address the Board on agenda items only (or upon any other matter of public concern directly relating to the District’s school policies) without staying for the business meeting. The section at the end provides an opportunity for those staying for the business meeting to comment on the work of the Board with regard to agenda items or upon any other matter of public concern directly relating to the District’s school policies.
2. The Board will provide a maximum of 30 minutes to hear public comment. Presentations and speakers will be limited to 3 minutes per person. Speakers may not relinquish allotted time to another speaker. Written remarks are encouraged. The Board may extend the individual or maximum allowed public comment time by a majority vote by the Board.
3. **Persons wishing to address the Board shall state their name, address, and group, if any, that is represented.**
4. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, 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. 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. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel, or students will be directed to the Superintendent.
5. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, unfounded, defamatory, or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. Any comments which do not adhere to the above, or which disrupt the official business of the Board, may be ruled out of order by the Board Chair who may terminate the remarks of any individual when the speaker does not follow this rule of order as to content or time limitation. Repeated disruptions may result in the individual being asked to leave the meeting and may result in the intervention of law enforcement, with the potential for criminal charges.

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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. All comments and questions will be directed to the Board.

Persons wishing to be placed on the agenda should: Submit a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools 10 days prior to the date of the School Board Meeting. In consultation with the Board Chair, this item may be placed on the agenda.

Legal References:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:3, Public Records and Meetings: Non-Public Sessions

RSA 189:74 School Board Public Comment Period

Brian Balke, Superintendent
SAU #19, 11 School Street
Goffstown, NH 03045 (497-4818)

Adopted: 05/08/2003
Revised: 04/12/2005
Revised: 06/13/2007
Proposed: 03/19/2014
Adopted: 05/14/2014
Reviewed: 11/17/2016
Reviewed: 12/20/2017
Proposed: 02/08/2022
Approved: 05/11/2022
Proposed: 09/28/2022
Adopted: 10/12/2022

NHSBA Review: 01/23/14