REVISED

File: BEDH

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Written correspondence may be directed to any member of the School Committee or to the Superintendent.

2. A citizen who wishes to have an item placed on the School Committee agenda will present the request in writing to the Chair of the School Committee or to the Superintendent at least fourteen days in advance of the meeting at which he/she wishes to discuss the item.

3. From time to time, the School Committee may schedule a public hearing on any matter of concern to the community.

4. At the conclusion of the School Committee dialogue on each agenda "discussion" item the chairman will permit public participation. Said participation may be limited to three to five minutes for each speaker.

5. At the conclusion of all discussion items and prior to considering items to be "voted" the chairman will permit public participation.

   Citizens, at this time, may address the Committee on items of school business not on the agenda. The Committee will take such items under advisement, without action, at the meeting during which the item is presented. Matters pertaining to the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health of individuals will not be permitted. The chairman shall have the authority to regulate and limit this phase of participation as appropriate and as time permits. The Committee may determine to limit or alter this authority by majority vote. It should be noted that, by law, "no person shall address a public meeting of a government body without permission of the presiding officer at such meeting, and all persons shall, at the request of such presiding officer, be silent."

6. Whenever and wherever possible sufficient seating will be provided to accommodate all persons in attendance.

7. A minimum of four sets of pertinent agenda items, as determined by the Superintendent, will be made available for the audience.

Medfield Public Schools

REVISED/APPROVED BY
SCHOOL COMMITTEE - JANUARY 12, 2015

DRAFT
Proposed Policy BEDH
11/17/2022 - Informational
12/8/20222 - 1st Reading

BEDH - PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. The School Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority. The public comment period is available to all residents of the Town, and to all students/families/guardians of students enrolled in the schools of the district.

To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals may sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment, or indicate their desire to speak as directed by the Chair. The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes unless the Chair in the Chair's discretion determines that a longer period is appropriate. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner.

2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.

3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.

4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.

5. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the

meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Medield School Committee.

6. Sign up instructions will be provided for those who wish to participate in Public Comment.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30A: 18-25

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS