

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.