

Public Comment at Board Meetings

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, will be held in sessions open to the public. The Board invites community members to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the school programs and operation of the district. The public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without comment.

Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings and submit written comments to the Board. Individual requesting assistance, aids or accommodations are encouraged to notify the district at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with the request, consistent with Board policy BD/BDA - Board Meetings.

PROCEDURES FOR ORAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board establishes the following procedures for public comment at Board meetings held in open session. The information will be accessible and available to all patrons accessing or attending such a Board meeting.

1. Public comment is limited to its designated place on the agenda and while time allows.
2. A person wishing to provide public comment, if an opportunity is provided by the Board during a meeting open to the public, will complete and submit the Intent to Speak card to the Board secretary by 12:00 noon the day of the meeting. A request to give public comment in-person or electronically does not guarantee time will be available.
3. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting may comment on a topic not on the published agenda.
4. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting should state their name, whether they are a resident of the district, and, if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.
5. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of three minutes. Statements should be brief and concise. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to comment due to time constraints, the person is encouraged to submit additional written comments to the Board through the district office as directed.
6. Inquiries from the public during the designated portion of the agenda will not generally be responded to immediately by the Board chair, and may be referred to the superintendent for reply at a later date. The Board will not respond to inquiries that are expected to be

addressed during another designated portion of the agenda.

PETITIONS may be accepted at any meeting of the Board. Generally, no action will be taken in response to a petition before the next regular meeting of the Board. Petitions will be referred to the superintendent for consideration and recommendation of appropriate action.

COMMENTS REGARDING STAFF MEMBERS Speakers at a Board meeting may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL Public Complaints for Board consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent who will forward it to the employee, his/her supervisor, and the Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal References:

- ORS 165.535
- ORS 165.540
- ORS 192.610 - 192.690
- ORS 332.057
- ORS 332.107

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020)

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018)

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District, 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996)

Levanthal v. Vista Unified School District, 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997)

Oregon House Bill 2560 (2021)