

Community Relations

Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

The regular and special meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public and representatives of the press except that a part of any meeting may be designated an executive session as provided by law. (See 9324 for details)

The Board of Education welcomes participation of individuals and organizations. Advance announcement of all regular and special meetings of the Board of Education is made through posting the agenda (including posting on the Board's website, to the extent required by law), and directly to citizens and community and professional organizations who specifically request such notification. Notice of meetings will be mailed to persons filing a written request renewable in January of each year. Said notice shall, where practicable, be given at least one week prior to the date set for the meeting, except that the Board may give such notice as it deems practical for special meetings called less than seven days prior to the date set for the meetings. A reasonable charge may be made for those persons or organizations requesting advance announcements of meetings and agenda backup materials based on the estimated cost of providing such service.

Board meetings are meetings held in public and are not open hearings. Once the Board moves into regular agenda the public may participate as allowed by the Chairperson and with the following restrictions:

1. Questions and/or comments are to be restricted to the specific agenda item being discussed;
2. Board members shall be recognized first for comments and/or questions;
3. Questions and/or comments by the public may be restricted by the Board Chairperson;
4. The Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, curtail public discussion at any time.

With regard to ##3 and 4, above, public questions and/or comments may be restricted by the Chairperson a) due to time limitations and the need by the Board to address other business, and b) to the extent necessary to remove disruption, where any person or group of persons interrupts the meeting so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible.

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Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings (continued)

The Board agenda provides opportunities for comments and questions from persons attending the meeting. Any citizen may appear before the Board to express his/her opinion concerning the educational program of the district. In addition to the restrictions listed above, the public is advised that any discussion of specific Board employees will not be allowed at meetings and should be addressed to that employee's immediate supervisor.

(cf. 1312 Public Complaints)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-225 Meetings of government agents to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.

1-226 Broadcasting or photographing meetings.

19a-342 Smoking in public meetings in rooms of public building prohibited.

1-227 Mailing of notice of meetings to persons filing written request. Fees.

1-230 Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or resolution.

1-232 Conduct of meetings.

1-206 Denial of access to public records or meetings.

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

Policy adopted: May 7, 2001
Policy revised: June 9, 2009
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut