**BEDH**

**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. It is important to remember that the meeting is a gathering of the board of education that the public has a right to attend, rather than an open public meeting where everyone is given the same rights as board members regarding participation. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and 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 non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions RSA 91-A:3.

The Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings in order to assure that meetings are conducted properly and efficiently and persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard:

1. A period not to exceed 15 minutes will be set aside for citizens to address the Board. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person.
2. Members of the public may offer comments to the board. The public should not expect an immediate response to matters that are noton the agenda. The Board will acknowledge, and may require further research via the Superintendent.
3. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will neither entertain any public comments, nor place any matter on the public agenda that should be, or is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent in accordance with Policies KE and KEB.
4. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory or

violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair/designee

shall terminate the speaker's privilege to address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that individual Board members are not authorized to act on behalf of the Board without such authority being granted by the full Board. All answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions

First Reading: June 25, 2012

Second Reading: July 17, 2012

Revised: July 17, 2012

First Reading: November 18, 2014   
Returned to First Reading: January 13, 2015

Second Reading: February 3, 2015