

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires citizens of the District 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 citizens and the School Committee. It is a citizen's opportunity to express an opinion on issues of School Committee business. The Committee may respond to a public comment by taking it under consideration when deliberating on an agenda item or referring an issue to the administration for appropriate action or response.

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, citizens will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment.
2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their full name and address. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit. Time may not be shared between speakers.
3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of responsibility.
4. Disruptive conduct and/or remarks will not be allowed. If an individual or group of individuals continue to engage in disruptive conduct after a warning, the presiding Chair has the authority to terminate that individual's privilege of address and/or order that individual(s) to leave the meeting. If the individual(s) do not leave, authorities may be called.
5. The presiding Chair of the meeting shall establish the duration of the comment period.
6. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting.

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

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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