

REEDSPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD
MEETINGS

CODE: BDDH

All meetings of the Board, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites citizens of the district to attend Board meetings so they may become acquainted with the program and the operation of the schools. Members of the public are also encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.

Audience

During an open session of a Board meeting, members of the public are specifically invited to present concerns during the portion of the agenda so designated. At the discretion of the chairman, further public participation may be allowed.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request the superintendent to place an item of concern on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Procedures for Public Participation in Meetings

Procedures will be established for the participation in meetings of the Board open to the public. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public as to how to effectively participate in Board meetings. The information will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public meeting of the Board.

Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item is limited to its designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the chairman.

A visitor speaking during the meeting may introduce a topic not on the published agenda. The Board, at its discretion, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing, and reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration for action or for study.

Any person who is invited by the chairman to speak to the Board at a meeting should state his or her name and residence and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A group of people with a common purpose should designate a spokesman to speak for the group.

Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The chairman may exercise discretion to establish a time limit on discussion or oral presentation by a visitor on any topic.

Questions asked by the public will, when possible, be answered immediately by the chairman or referred to staff members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the chairman, be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.

~~At the discretion of the Board chairman, anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as an individual or as a member of a group, on any agenda item or other topic, may do so by providing the Board secretary with a completed registration card prior to the Board meeting in order to allow the chairman to provide adequate time for each agenda item.~~

Petitions

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

Criticisms of Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear personal complaints concerning school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system in open meetings. The chairman will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

END OF POLICY

Legal References: ORS 192.610 - 192.690
 ORS 192.710
 ORS 332.057
 ORS 332.065
 ORS 433.835

Adoption: 7/11/90
Revised: 7/10/02

Policy21/BDDH
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