

Public Participation in Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees encourages all citizens of the District to express their ideas and concerns. The comments of the community will be given careful consideration. In the evaluation of such comments, first priority will be District students and their educational program.

NOTICE

**DUE TO THEIR SENSITIVE NATURE, COMMENTS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT PERSONNEL OR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. ADDITIONALLY, OTHER TOPICS YOU WISH TO ADDRESS MAY ONLY BE APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. IN SUCH INSTANCES, THE BOARD WILL DETERMINE IF YOUR COMMENTS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN OR EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WILL NOTIFY YOU ACCORDINGLY.**

**“A PERSON WHO DISRUPTS THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OR WHOSE PRESENCE IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE MORALS, HEALTH, SAFETY, ACADEMIC LEARNING OR DISCIPLINE OF THE PUPILS OR WHO LOITERS IN SCHOOLHOUSES OR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.”**

Any complaint about the District, including instruction, discipline, District personnel policy, procedure or curriculum, should be referred through proper administrative channels before it is presented to the board for consideration and action. All complaints should be resolved through proper channels in the following order:

1. Teacher or Staff
2. Principal or Supervisor
3. Director or Administrator
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Trustees

Please also see District Policy No. 4110 regarding public complaints.

At each Regular and Special meeting of the Board the agenda may provide time for public comment before the Board. Persons wishing to address the Board will be required to submit a “REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD” form. Forms are available from the Board Secretary and will be available at each meeting.

Total time allotted for public comment will not exceed one (1) hour. Public participation will be limited to the time allotted on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to five (5) minutes. All speakers will be allowed to speak at least once before a speaker is allowed to address the board a second time. All speakers will be allowed to speak at least once before a speaker is allowed to address the board a second time. Public comment will be taken from the public on matters scheduled on the agenda. Should a large number of the public wish to speak on the same issue or topic, members of the public are encouraged to select a representative(s) to summarize their position. Additionally, the Board Secretary will accept written comments for distribution to the Board. The Board may decline to hear repetitive comments. The Chair may also deny an individual the opportunity to address the Board if the individual has previously addressed the Board on the same subject within the past two months.

Written materials for Board Members must be submitted to the Board Secretary. The written material must include the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting it. A copy of the materials that meet these requirements will be forwarded to Board Members if received by noon the Friday preceding the Board Meeting. Materials should not be sent directly to Board Members. Materials may be presented or mailed to the Board Secretary at 125 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Jerome, Idaho 83338.

If a topic is being considered by a committee established for that purpose, the Chairman may refer the public comment to that committee.

Because of the diversity of issues, members of the Board will not respond to public comment. Instead, issues may be recorded and referred to the proper staff person for follow-up. The Chairman may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, repetitive, or irrelevant. The Board of Trustees as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the removal of any person who willfully disrupts a meeting to the extent that orderly conduct is seriously compromised. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if, after being called to order, the speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks.

If a special meeting has been held to obtain public comment on a specific issue, the Chairman of the Board may not recognize speakers wishing to comment on the same topic at a regular meeting of the Board.

Cross Reference:       4110    Public Complaints  
                          4120    Uniform Grievance Procedure  
                          4320    Disruption of School Operations

Legal Reference:       I.C. § 33-512 (11) Governance of Schools  
                          I.C. § 74-206 Executive Sessions – When Authorized

Policy History:

Adopted on:       10/24/2006  
Revised on:       02/23/2016