

UNION #39

POLICY BI

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

It is the intention of the board to encourage public participation at its meetings. All meetings of the board or its subcommittees will comply with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. When the pressure of board business is severe, or when a large number of people wish to speak on matters before the board, reasonable rules of participation may be used to insure that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion and that the business at hand is completed in a timely manner.

The board will provide opportunities for public participation at its meetings prior to board action on any item on the board agenda in accordance with the following procedures.

- A. Persons who may address the board prior to board action on items on the board agenda:
1. Any district resident
 2. School staff members, students and parents
 3. Individuals who have been requested by the superintendent or the board to present a given subject
 4. Persons who are directly affected by matters on the board agenda
 5. Others at the discretion of the board
- B. To speak to an item on the agenda:
1. The chair will ask for comments on agenda items before action is taken by the board.
 2. When the pressure of board business is extreme or the number of people wishing to speak is large, the board may authorize the chair to use a speakers' list. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to sign the speakers' list, indicating which agenda item will be addressed.
- C. Time limit for speakers. The board may, when the number of people wishing to speak is large, limit the time for each speaker, and may authorize the chair to restrict each speaker to one opportunity to be heard on a given topic.
- D. Public input on items not on the agenda. There will be time set aside for public input on items not on the agenda at every regular, special or emergency meeting of the board. The time allotted to this item will be assigned by the chair or the person responsible for organizing the agenda. The chair may rule out of order any presentation to the board which breaches the privacy or other rights of students, parents or school employees, or which does not comply with board policy on complaints.

Date Warned: May 12, 1993

Date Adopted: May 24, 1993

Date Reviewed: July 16, 2003

Legal Reference(s): 1 V.S.A. §312, et seq. 16 V.S.A. §554 (b)

Cross Reference: Bd Mtgs; Brd Mtg Agenda Prep;