

1 **Browning Public Schools**

2
3 Policy #1441

4 Policy Name: *Public Participation at Board Meetings*

5 Regulation: -----

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7 Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school
8 district. The meetings are not public forum meetings, but are meetings held in the public. All
9 meetings, except executive sessions, will be open to the public. The minutes of each meeting will
10 record the action taken at each meeting, and will show how each member voted on each item
11 presented for action. The journal of minutes is open and available to the public during normal
12 business hours.

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14 The agenda for each regular meeting of the Board of Education will include an opportunity for
15 Public Comment. The purpose of this agenda item is to permit members of the public to speak,
16 within time limitations, on matters of immediate concern within the jurisdiction of the Board.
17 Additionally, members of the community may submit items to be considered for placement on the
18 agenda. Individuals or organizations within the community desiring to make requests, presentations
19 or proposals to the Board during the public comment portion of the agenda, or to have an item
20 considered for placement on the agenda will be provided that opportunity. Although orderly conduct
21 of Board meetings does not permit spontaneous discussion from the audience, the Board reserves the
22 right to solicit input on any agenda item from members of the public whom are present at any public
23 meeting. Information exchanged in this manner will occur only after the individual wishing to
24 comment is recognized by the chairperson.

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26 Persons with complaints will be required to utilize the Board of Education Administrative Complaint
27 Resolution Process as a means of disposition *prior* to addressing the matter at the Board level. ~~In the~~
28 ~~event that resolution of individual concerns is not possible, the superintendent will confer with the~~
29 ~~chairperson of the Board concerning approval to place the requested item on the agenda for public~~
30 ~~comment and to determine the appropriate meeting for such discussion. Should approval be granted,~~
31 ~~the requesting party will be advised of the meeting at which the item will be part of the agenda.~~

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33 ~~In order that the Board may fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, requests for an~~
34 ~~item to be placed on the agenda must be submitted in writing no later than 5 p.m. on the Wednesday~~
35 ~~prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Requests received after this time will be~~
36 ~~considered for the following meeting of the Board. All requests for recognition on the agenda will~~
37 ~~state the name of the individual or group submitting the request, the address, telephone number, the~~
38 ~~purpose of the request, the topic to be addressed and any materials to be presented~~

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40 ~~A time allocation, not to exceed 20 minutes per group at a meeting will be provided for the~~
41 ~~comments from the public. Individual presentations by speakers are limited to five minutes. The~~
42 ~~Board Chairperson will advise the audience at the beginning of the Public Comment section on the~~
43 ~~agenda of the policy concerning the procedure to be observed.~~

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45 Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will give their names and indicate if they are
46 representing an organization. All remarks must be addressed to the Chairperson of the Board. Direct
47 questions or comments to individual Board members or other officers of the school system may
48 occur only upon approval of the Chairperson. Members of the Board and the superintendent may
49 have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

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1 Speakers will not be permitted to make defamatory comments or use abusive and/or vulgar language.
2 Speakers will be advised that comments must be limited to items which directly relate to the school
3 district. The Chairperson of the Board will maintain the prerogative to discontinue any presentation
4 which violates any of the public participation guidelines.
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6 The board will not permit in public session any expression of personal complaints regarding school
7 personnel nor against any person connected with the school system.
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9 The intent of this policy is to allow a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard, to allow the
10 superintendent to take-action when policies have been established by the Board on the subject of the
11 request, to provide adequate time for the Board to obtain information concerning the subject, and to
12 see that time so devoted to the discussion does not interfere with the fulfillment of the scheduled
13 agenda of the Board.
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15 The provisions set forth in this policy are not to be construed as providing an additional form of
16 relief to employees attempting to resolve concerns related to personnel issues. Nothing in this policy
17 countermands the contractual provisions of the collective bargaining agreements for resolution of
18 grievances with any employee groups or individuals in such employee groups.
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25 **Cross Reference:** #1410 Closed Sessions
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27 **Legal Reference:** 2-3-101, et seq., MCA Right of Participation
28 Article II, Sections 8, 10 Montana Constitutions
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31 **Policy History:**
32 Adopted on: 6/30/97
33 Amended on: 1/12/99, 11/8/05, 3/9/21
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