
Public Comment at Board Meetings

All board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The board invites [the district's community members](#) ~~citizens~~ to attend board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the [district schools](#). Members of the public also [may be invited](#) ~~are encouraged~~ to share ~~their~~ [comments](#) ~~ideas and opinions~~ with the board [during designated times on the agenda](#) ~~when appropriate~~.

It is the intent of the board to ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in board meetings [and submit comments to the board](#). Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary¹ aids and services. Auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities will be available at no charge to the individual. All auxiliary aid and/or service requests must be made with appropriate advance notice. Should the board demonstrate such requests would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or an undue financial and administrative burden, an alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Audience

~~During a session of a board meeting open to the public, members of the public may be invited to present comments during the designated portion of the agenda. At the discretion of the board chair, further public comment may be allowed.~~

Request for an Item on the Agenda

~~A member of the public may request the superintendent or the board chair consider placing an item on the agenda of a regular board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent or the board chair for consideration.~~

Procedures for Public Comment at Meetings

The board will establish procedures for public comment in open meetings. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public how to effectively participate in board meetings for the best interests of the individual, the district and the patrons. The information will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public board meeting.

1. [Public comment](#) ~~Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item~~ is limited to its designated place on the agenda [and while time allows, as determined](#) ~~unless otherwise authorized~~ by the board chair. [The board may conduct a meeting without public comment.](#)
2. [When the board provides an opportunity for in-person attendees to provide oral or written public comment, a similar opportunity will be provided for virtual attendees.](#)
3. ~~At the discretion of the board chair, 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~~ [request to](#) do so by providing the board secretary with a completed ~~registration~~ [request](#) card or ~~sign-in sheet~~ [other established method for requests](#)

¹Auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to, such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Braille materials and large print.

to speak, prior to the board meeting ~~in order to allow the chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.~~

4. The board chair will determine the method for the selection and order of the speakers.
5. A person giving public comment will be limited to a time limit established by the board chair ~~may use discretion to establish a time limit discussion or oral presentation by visitors.~~ Time cannot be shared or given to another person. ~~Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise.~~
6. A person ~~visitor~~ speaking during the public comment portion of a meeting may ~~introduce comment on~~ 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 study.~~
7. ~~Any person who is invited by the board chair to~~ speaking to the board during the public comment portion of a meeting should provide ~~his/her~~ their name and ~~contact information whether they are a resident of the district,~~ and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. The board prefers that a group designate a spokesperson to represent those with a common purpose.
8. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to comment due to time constraints, they may submit their additional comments to the board in writing through the district office as directed.
9. The board will not answer questions submitted during public comment at the board meeting. A board member or district representative ~~will~~ may follow up after the meeting.

Criticisms of Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs, but the board will not hear complaints concerning individual district personnel. The board chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for ~~board~~ consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving a staff member ~~such individuals.~~

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 165.535](#)

[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610 to -192.690](#)

[ORS 332.057](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2012); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist., 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist., 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).

Cross Reference(s):

[BD/BDA – Board Meetings](#)

[BDDC – Board Meeting Agenda](#)