



School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Public Comment Guidelines
Presenter(s): Bob Jaszczak, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Information or Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Background Information

The board will discuss the current process for receiving Public Comment at Regular School Board meetings.

Included in the packet is the current Public Comment Record document.
Policy 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings is listed as an EXTRA.

Below is the current language on the Public Comment Background document and the recommend update.

Current Language on Background Document:

The school board would like to provide interested community members an opportunity to provide appropriate public comment. We seriously consider all questions and concerns presented, but we follow protocols to ensure orderly operation of the meeting and the development of an appropriate response. Public may provide comment in person and sign in upon arrival or public comment may be shared by emailing a statement to jrbryant@rwps.org or bjaszczak@rwps.org by noon the day of the meeting. The statement must include the writer's name and address. Upon review with appropriate edits as per expectations outlined in the Public Comment portion of the school board agenda, the individual will be invited to attend the meeting virtually and read their statement to the Board during the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

The following guidelines will be followed during public comment:

1. We expect that comments be limited to 3 minutes per person and that a representative be selected to speak on behalf of a group of individuals attending the meeting for the same topic.
2. School board members will listen to the public comments but will not discuss the topic at the meeting. The Superintendent and/or school board chair may provide a

response outlining steps the school district has taken or will take to address the concerns. A summary of the school district's actions in response to public comment will be provided to the school board, individuals submitting public comment, and/or public at a later date as appropriate.

3. We expect that comments remain respectful and appropriate and not identify any current or former students, their families, or staff members by name.

Recommended Updated Statement to be read at meetings:

Superintendent:

The Red Wing School Board values and welcomes community input. Public comment is a chance for board members to listen; this is not a time for debate or response.

Speakers are limited to a single, three-minute presentation and are expected to comment in a respectful and professional manner. The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act prohibits comment about specific students, staff or administrators, even without naming them, in open session.

We allot 15 minutes for public comment. Tonight's comment period will conclude at _____ (6:20 p.m. for example).

Board chair:

At this time, I recognize ... (see signup sheet). Please take a seat, state your name, School District of residence and your reason for addressing the board.