

## **Bylaws of the Board**

### **Board of Education Meetings**

The Board of Education recognizes the need to conduct its regular monthly meeting in an efficient and timely manner to accomplish the purpose of the meeting and yet avoid late night sessions. The Board appreciates that avoiding late sessions is necessary to allow the public and press good access to and understanding of the Board's activities.

For the above reasons, meetings of the Board of Education shall end 3½ hours after the start time. A meeting may be extended only under extreme circumstances by a 2/3's vote. A majority vote may postpone unfinished agenda items to be handled at an additional special meeting, or at the next regular meeting.

The Board encourages public participation during the public comment portion of the meeting. It also encourages public participation on agenda items if there are still questions after Board members have spoken. The Chairperson reserves the right to limit public comment. Furthermore, the public is encouraged to attend the Board of Education subcommittee meetings where public discussion of issues is welcomed.

It is important that Board members and the public cooperate with the following guidelines:

1. Board meetings will start promptly at the stated time, or as soon as a quorum is present.
2. School program presentations will be limited to 15 minutes.
3. Each speaker, Board of Education and public, should observe rules of common etiquette. There will be no personal attacks on Board members and employees.
4. Each speaker, Board of Education and public, should try to speak directly to the point in as concise a manner as possible and should not repeat a previous comment. The Board welcomes public participation. Pursuant to our Board Policy, public participation is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker and a total of no more than fifteen (15) minutes. Individuals who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related subcommittee meetings where most of the board's groundwork is done. The board values public input, but due to these time limitations, asks individuals to be concise and please do not repeat a previous comment. Please observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you. [9320(a) of Board By-laws]

## **Bylaws of the Board**

### **Board of Education Meetings (continued)**

5. Public comments are for the Board's information and do not necessarily require a reply at that time. If the Chairperson deems an immediate reply is in order, the Chairperson will select an appropriate Board person (i.e., Board member, school personnel) to reply.
  
6. When at all possible, public questions about personal school matters should be communicated directly to the involved teacher, principal, etc., before addressing them to the Board.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: June 23, 1999  
Bylaw revised: May 3, 2007

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Fairfield, Connecticut