

Three Rivers School District

Code: BDDH
Adopted: 11/21/05
Readopted: 11/14/18
Orig. Code: BDDH

DELETE & ADOPT NEW VERSION

Public Comment at Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites district community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. Members of the public are also encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board, 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. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities will be available at no charge to the individual. All auxiliary aids 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 in undue financial and administrative burdens, 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 consider placing an item on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the Superintendent for consideration at least ten calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting.

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. Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item is limited to its designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the Board chair.
2. A visitor speaking during the meeting may introduce 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.
3. Any person who is invited by the Board chair to speak to the Board during a meeting should state his/her name and address and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.

4. Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The Board chair may use discretion to establish a time limit on discussion or oral presentation by visitors.
5. Questions asked by the public, when possible, will be answered by the Board chair or referred to the superintendent for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the Board chair, be referred to the Superintendent for response at a later time.
6. 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 do so by providing the Board Secretary with a completed School Board Comment Card prior to the Board meeting in order to allow the chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.

he Board chair should be alert to see that all visitors have been acknowledged and thanked for their presence and for any contributed comments on agenda issues. Similar courtesy should be extended to members of staff who have been in attendance. Their return for future meetings should be welcomed.

Petitions

Petitions may be accepted at any Board meeting. No action will be taken in response to a petition before the next regular meeting. Petitions will be referred to the Superintendent for consideration and recommendation.

Comments Regarding Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL–Public Complaints for Board consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, his/her supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 165.535](#)

[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610–192.690](#)

[ORS 332.057](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12133 (2018).

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).

Oregon House Bill 2560 (2021).

Cross Reference(s):

BDDA—Meeting Notification

BDDC—Board Meeting Agenda

BDDF—Methods of Operation

RECOMMENDED VERSION TO ADOPT

Code: BDDH
Adopted:

Public Comment at Board Meetings

{HB 2560 (2021) goes into effect on January 1, 2022, and requires that districts provide the same opportunity for public comment to those attending virtually as is provided to those attending in person. We recommend that districts review current public comment practices and adopt policy language that meets the law and the desired district practice.}

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites the district's community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. The public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without public comment.

Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings and submit written comments to the Board. Individuals requesting assistance, aids or accommodations are encouraged to notify the district at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with the request, consistent with Board policy BD/BDA – *Board Meetings*.

Procedures for Oral Public Comment

The Board establishes the following procedures for public comment at Board meetings held in open session. The information will be accessible and available to all patrons accessing or attending such a Board meeting.

1. Public comment is limited to its designated place on the agenda and while time allows.
2. A person wishing to provide public comment, if an opportunity is provided by the Board during a meeting open to the public, will complete and submit the *School Board Comment Card* to the Board secretary (if in-person) or submit their name electronically via the link provided on the home page of the district website prior to the Board meeting (if participating remotely).¹ A request to give public comment in-person or electronically does not guarantee time will be available.
3. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting may comment on any topic except comments regarding staff members (see below).
4. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting should state their name, whether they are a resident of the district, and, if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.
5. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of three minutes per person up to a total of twenty minutes of time allotted for public input at each board meeting. Statements should be brief and concise. Time limits will be determined based on the number of commenters and

¹ When in-person attendees are allowed to provide oral comment, virtual attendees will be afforded the same opportunity.

the twenty minutes of time available for public comment. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to comment due to time constraints, the person is encouraged to submit additional written comments to the Board through the district office as directed.

6. Inquiries from the public during the designated portion of the agenda will not generally be responded to immediately by the Board chair, and may be referred to the superintendent for reply at a later date. The Board will not respond to inquiries that are expected to be addressed during another designated portion of the agenda.

The Board will not hear public comment at Board work sessions.

Procedures for Written Comment

Members of the public may submit written comments or materials to the Board at any time at the district office, by mail or by email to TRSD@threerivers.k12.or.us. Materials or comments submitted at least 48 hours in advance of a Board meeting will be provided to the Board before the Board meeting, but will not be read at the Board meeting. Written materials or comments submitted may not warrant action by the Board.

Comments Regarding Staff Members

A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL - *Public Complaints* for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member.

END OF POLICY

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