

Public Participation in Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites **and encourages** district community members to attend Board meetings to **learn about and provide input on district business**. ~~become acquainted with the program and operation of the district. Members of the public are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.~~

It is the intent of the Board to ensure **effective** communications with **all** individuals, **including individuals with disabilities, students, parents, older adults, non-English speaking, English Language learners, and other traditionally underrepresented community members**. ~~are as effective as communications with others.~~ The district will ensure **equally effective communications are provided to persons with disabilities upon request as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act**. 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~~ persons with **a disability** ~~disabilities~~ in **the selection of selecting** appropriate auxiliary aids¹ and services.

Appropriate auxiliary aids and services 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. 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, 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 concerns during the designated portion of the agenda. At the discretion of the Board Chair, further public participation may be allowed.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

Items of business may be suggested by any Board member, staff member, student or community member of the district by notifying the Board Chair, Vice Chair, or Superintendent. Suggestions must be sent in writing at least 14 working days prior to the meeting. Board leadership will then notify the person who suggested the item whether it has been added to the agenda and why at least 7 days prior to the meeting. ~~A member of the public may request the superintendent consider placing an item of concern on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the superintendent for consideration at least seven working days prior to the scheduled meeting.~~

Procedures for Public **Input** ~~Comment~~ at Meetings

The Board will establish procedures for public participation 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 ~~their~~ ~~his/her~~ name and address and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A ~~spokesperson~~ ~~spokesman~~ 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 placing their name on a sign in sheet prior to the ~~designated agenda time~~ **beginning of the meeting**.
7. **The Superintendent's report at the subsequent meeting will include a public report to the board as appropriate regarding the follow up done by the administration on testimony that board members have requested follow up on.**

The 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. The association contract governing the employee's rights will be followed. 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 to -192.690

ORS 332.057

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):

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda