

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings.

1. Fifteen (15) minutes will be set aside for citizens to address the Board about items on the meeting agenda. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person.
2. During this period, members of the public may offer comments on agenda items only. The Board will not entertain comments on items that do not appear on the agenda.
3. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent.
4. Regular meetings of the Board include a second fifteen (15) minute public comment period following New Business. During this time, the Board will entertain comments not limited to items on the agenda. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.

**Legal Reference:**

*RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public*

*RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions*

Board Approved: 1/15/ 2008