

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Waunakee Community School District

Policy 187.1

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Subject to any more specific direction that may be issued by the Board of Education with respect to any particular committee or committee meeting, a standing or ad hoc committee established by the Board may choose to include or exclude, and appropriately limit, periods of public comment at the meetings of the committee. At a minimum, any such public comment periods shall be restricted to subject matter that is reasonably within the domain of the committee's charge, and the Board strongly encourages committees to expressly limit the scope of any such public comment periods to comments that are reasonably germane to the noticed subject matter of the particular meeting. Periods of public comment at committee meetings shall be publicly noticed to the extent required by law.

Subject to an appeal to the committee that is made by a committee member, the presiding officer of the committee meeting shall have the authority to conduct and maintain proper order in connection with any authorized public comment period, including the authority to (1) recognize speakers; (2) enforce established time limits; (3) interject and request that speakers voluntarily redirect specific complaints, grievances, or attempted appeals to more appropriate District procedures; and (4) terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to established rules and procedures for public participation, who speaks in a threatening or profane manner, whose comments are repetitive of that person's previous comments, or whose conduct is disruptive and impedes the committee's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and timely fashion.

By majority vote during a committee meeting, a committee may also solicit or agree to accept input that is relevant to a noticed agenda item from a person who is not a committee member in order to (for example) resolve a formal or informal point of information that arises during the committee's discussion of the agenda item. Such discretion shall be exercised in a lawful manner.

The Board or, unless otherwise directed by the Board, the committee itself may also schedule a duly-noticed public hearing to occur at a meeting of the committee on a particular issue or topic.

Members of the public who are permitted to address a committee during a meeting are responsible for the content of their comments. Such speakers are not exempt from any liability arising from their comments (e.g., for defamation or for the breach of legally-protected confidentiality).

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 19.81](#) [state policy on open meetings]
- [Section 19.83\(2\)](#) [discussion during period of public comment]
- [Section 19.84\(2\)](#) [public notice of board meetings, including public comment period]
- [Section 19.85](#) [exemptions to open meetings]

Cross References:

[Insert appropriate cross references to the policy as applicable to your district.]

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Adoption/Revision Dates:

January 200
January 2002
May 2020