

## **PUBLIC OR AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

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The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board will provide a period at the beginning of the meeting during which visitors may make formal presentations. Such presentations should be scheduled in advance.

The Board will also allow individuals to express an opinion prior to Board action on agenda items the Board determines require or will benefit from public comment. Written and oral comment will be accepted by the Board before the adoption or amendment of policies not expressly or by implication authorized by state or federal law, but which will promote the education of kindergarten through twelfth grade students in public schools or will promote the effective, efficient or safe management and operation of the district. Individuals wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the President. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board shall also be entitled to express an opinion. The President may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

The Board shall not hear oral complaints regarding district employees. A member of the public wishing to make such a complaint shall do so in writing to the President and/or Superintendent who shall take appropriate action.

Individuals with disabilities who may need a modification to participate in a meeting should contact the Superintendent's office no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so that arrangements for the modification can be made.

**Legal References:**    RCW 42.30.110                      Executive sessions  
                                 RCW 42.30.140                      Chapter controlling — Application

**Management Resources:** *Policy News*, June 2001    Legislature Addresses Executive Session

**Replaces Mead School District Policy 1530**  
**Adopted:                      March 26, 2007**