

# Written Public Comment

Jennifer Potter <jpotter583@gmail.com>

Mon 1/10/2022 6:46 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

This message is from a non-SPS email address. Please use caution and only click links and attachments if you are sure they are safe.

Dear School Board Members,

Thank you for your new policy stating that you will provide translation at school board meetings if given 48 hours notice. This is an important step. However, given the large percentage of Spanish-speaking students and parents in Springfield, Spanish translation should be provided at every board meeting, without need for a request. This would make meetings truly accessible to all families.

You have a proposal before you to allow board meetings without public comment. To be accountable to the public means that you need to hear from the public. Written comments are valuable, but nothing compares to hearing the actual voices of members of the community. Please ensure that every meeting allows for live public comment.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Potter  
Springfield resident, Ward 3

# Written Public Comment

Aloha Heart <heartaloha@gmail.com>

Mon 1/10/2022 9:30 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

This message is from a non-SPS email address. Please use caution and only click links and attachments if you are sure they are safe.

To all School Board Members. I am writing regarding Public Comment at all meetings, increased staff support, and gratitude re translation services.

Regarding Policy BDDH, it is essential that public comment be a regular opportunity for community input at EVERY School Board meeting. I urgently request that as BDDH Policy now stands that it NOT be approved by the Board. The public must have a voice in School Board decisions.

I hear from exhausted faculty and staff that they feel critically under supported. We must improve the work environment for these very essential public servants. Our teachers, staff, students and tax payers deserve more from our school system.

I am encouraged by and appreciative of BD-BDA that provides an opening for translation services for community members for whom English is not their first language. Inclusive opportunities for all community members to express needs and concerns is necessary and productive.

Sincerely,  
Carol Heart  
Springfield Resident

## Written Public Comment

Marcia Koenig <mgkoenig@gmail.com>

Mon 1/10/2022 11:48 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

This message is from a non-SPS email address. Please use caution and only click links and attachments if you are sure they are safe.

SPS Board of Education Members,

Thank you for continuing to work on ways to maintain public comment as an important part of board meetings. When I noticed that House Bill 2560 was being implemented, I wanted to make sure I looked more closely at the methods for making public comment with SPS Board. As someone who has worked in K-12 and is accustomed to maneuvering different public systems in general, I still had to read the options 3 times.

Please take a step back and consider how to keep the options simple, and accessible. If I am a parent or community member who has never spoken at a board meeting, having to email to be invited feels like an extra step, perhaps unwelcoming. I would also be confused as to whether I will be "selected" to speak or not, and possibly feel shunned.

Public participation is important and should be **ACTIVELY** solicited and welcomed. **The door needs to be open for the public to show up at the meeting time**, rather than show up and realize they actually needed to basically request permission by emailing ahead. Having advance registration prioritizes those who are familiar with the system and confident with the process of pre-registering. Making it transparent who is being "selected" to speak and how is also important. Alternatively, doing away with the 20-minute time limit would solve this gray area.

I do notice that some translation services have been made available. This shows that accessibility is of importance to you as well. Let's keep looking at who's voice is not heard regularly at meetings, and ways to actively welcome everyone.

# Thank you for your service

Marcia Koenig  
1041 6th St.  
Springfield, Or