

**Tumwater School District  
Board Policy**

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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 comment on items not on the agenda as well as opinions on any item on the agenda. Written and oral comment will be accepted by the board during public comments 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 sign in prior to the scheduled start of a regular business meeting and first be recognized by the president prior to speaking. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments following the protocols outlined in the "Board of Directors Community Engagement" document. 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 or deviates from the "Board of Directors Community Engagement" document procedures and protocols for public comment. The document is available in the District Administrative Office, on the District website, and copies are available at each Board meeting. The board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

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 42.30.030 Meetings declared open and public  
RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions — Procedures

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADOPTION DATE: October 8, 1968**

**REVISION DATE: July 11, 2013; October 13, 2016**