

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The regular and special meetings of the Salem Board of Education are open to the public and representatives of the press except that a part of any meeting may be designated an executive session as provided by law.

The Board of Education welcomes participation of interested organizations and individuals. Advance announcement of all regular and special meetings of the Board of Education is made through posting the agenda, through notices to newspapers, the Salem School website (www.salemschools.org), and directly to citizens and community and professional organizations who specifically request such notification. A reasonable charge may be made for those persons or organizations requesting advance announcements of meetings and agenda backup materials.

Board meetings are meetings held in public and are not open hearings. Each meeting offers a public comment agenda item that allows time for members of the audience to address the Board of Education with their comments. Once the Board moves into regular agenda the public may participate only as allowed by the Chairperson and with the following restrictions:

1. Questions and/or comments are to be restricted to the specific agenda item being discussed;
2. Board members shall be recognized first for comments and/or questions;
3. Questions and/or comments by the public may be restricted by the Board Chairperson;
4. The Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, curtail public discussion at any time.

Any member of the public may appear before the Board to express his/her opinion concerning the educational program or other topics within the purview of the Board. The public is advised that any discussion of specific Board employees will not be allowed. The Board will listen to remarks but discussion and Board action is limited to agenda items only. When making a comment, please use the microphone and state your name and address.

(cf. 1312 – Public Complaints)

(cf. 9325.1 – Public Comments)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes: 1-225 Meetings of government agents to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions. 1-226 Broadcasting or photographing meetings. 19a-342 Smoking in public meetings in rooms of public buildings prohibited. 1-227 Mailing of notice of meetings to persons filing written request. Fees. 1-230 Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or resolution. 1-232 Conduct of meetings. 1-205 Denial of access to public records or meetings. 10-238 Petition for hearing by Board of Education.

First Reading: April 9, 1996

Policy Adopted: April 23, 1996

Revised Policy 1st Reading: October 1, 2007

Revised Policy Adopted: November 5, 2007

Revised Policy 1st Reading: April 4, 2011

Revised Policy Approved: May 9, 2011

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