

Communication with the Public

Oral or written complaints or advice from students, parents, or interested citizens which may readily be defined as administrative problems will be so handled by school personnel most closely related to the issue. However, no student, parent, or interested person will be denied the right of higher appeal.

A complaint or advice may be presented to the School Board in one of two ways:

The petitioner may put the communication into writing for consideration by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

The petitioner may request a hearing before the Board at which time the communication may be presented orally.

Communications to be considered by the Board will be those that deal with policy or challenge the implementation of policy. To avoid unwitting publication of defamatory communications, the School Board will act only as passive witnesses to defamatory communications until the Board has obtained advice from legal counsel.

A petitioner's request for a scheduled hearing will be honored at the earliest possible time. The petitioner's name, address, representative capacity, and nature of the petition will be placed on the public agenda and a majority vote of the Board will be required before the request for a hearing will be granted.

Petitions that deal with personal or normally private matters will not be placed on the public agenda and the petitioner will offer the opportunity to be heard in Non-Public Session.

Written petitions or requests to be placed on the agenda must be received by the Superintendent or the Chairman of the Board by the end of business on the Thursday prior to the next School Board meeting so that all Board members may be fairly informed of pending business.

Internal communications from school employees will be handled within the system unless an employee is communicating in his role as a citizen with its guaranteed rights providing such communications do not adversely affect or prejudice the educational program or the orderly functioning of the schools.

A report of Board action on a petition will be mailed to a petitioner within 48 hours after a decision has been made by the Board.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(11), Policy Development

NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(k), Policy Development

Reviewed: 09/79

Revised: 09/80; 12/15/87

Approved: 02/08/88

Adopted: 09/25/89; 01/13/97

Reviewed: 08/11/97

Reviewed: 05/13/14

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