

9325(1)

Bylaws of the Board

Meeting Conduct

Meetings of the Board of Education (Board) shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Board in a manner consistent with the adopted Bylaws of the Board and the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

All Board meetings shall commence at the stated time or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present and shall be guided by an agenda, which will have been prepared and delivered in advance to all Board Members and other designated persons.

The meetings shall to the fullest possible extent enable members to conduct the business of the Board in an orderly, expeditious manner.

Provisions for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

1. A 3-minute time limit may be allowed to each speaker with a maximum of 20 minutes per meeting being allocated for any one item that appears on the agenda or falls under the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. No boisterous, inappropriate, or disrespectful conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. The Chairperson shall not permit actions which disrupt or interrupt the orderly conduct of the Board meeting. A willful participant in such conduct will be asked to leave the meeting of the Board. In case of a general disturbance the meeting room may be cleared except for non-participating representatives of the press.
3. Speakers are asked to express themselves in a civil manner, with due respect for the dignity and privacy of others who may be affected by their comments. While it is not the Board's intent to stifle public comment speakers should be aware that if their statements violate the rights of others under the law of defamation or invasion of privacy, the speaker may be held legally responsible.
4. The Board may by a majority vote decide to modify the amount of time allotted per item of the Agenda.
5. Inquiries or questions may be considered and answered at a future date.
6. Speakers may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs, but the Board encourages members of the public to address complaints concerning individual Amity Regional School District No. 5 (ARSD) personnel through the proper chain of command (see ABOE Policy 1312). The Chairperson may direct the member of the public to the appropriate means to address concerns brought before the Board; however the Board will not respond with action during public comment, but will take comments under advisement and when possible clarify issues.

When holding a Special Meeting of the Board of Education, notice shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting to which such notice refers. The notice shall specify the

9325(2)

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time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be considered. The Board reserves the right to conduct a Special Meeting without public comment. Public comment shall only be permitted if noticed on the posted special meeting agenda. Such public comment shall only be permitted for items on the special meeting agenda.

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 2100 – Administrative Staff Organization)

(cf. 9321 - Time, Place, Notification of Meetings)

(cf. 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions)

(cf. 9323 - Construction of the Agenda)

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes:

1-200 Definitions.

1-206 Denial of access of public records or meetings. Notice. Appeal.

1-210 Access to public records.

1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public.

19a-342 Smoking prohibited in certain places. Sign required. Penalty.

1-231 Executive sessions.

1-232 Conduct of meetings (re disturbances).

10-224 Duties of the Secretary