

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

- I. The Board of Education (the Board) encourages public participation on school-related matters at board meetings. To allow for public participation, specific portions of the Board meeting agenda shall provide for comment by members of the public on matters related to School District operations. Two periods, not to exceed 30 minutes each, shall be set aside at the beginning and end of each Board meeting. Each comment period may be waived or extended by a majority vote of the Board.
- II. It is recommended that persons wishing to address the Board shall register with the District Clerk by noon the day of the meeting via phone or email and provide their name and address, name of organization represented (if any), and a brief description of the specific actionable agenda item (for the first comment period) or topic/issue (for the second comment period) to be voiced. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson.
- III. Each individual speaker will be limited to three minutes each during the respective comment periods, and individuals may not delegate any remaining time to other speakers. Comments during the first comment period will be limited to matters on the agenda, while comments during the second comment period will be limited to other school-related matters. The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual Watertown City School District (the District) personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual District personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent of Schools during regular business hours. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.
- IV. Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the president of the board and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other District officials only upon the approval of the president. Board members and the Superintendent of Schools shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.
- V. Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration during the second comment period and referred to the Superintendent of Schools for appropriate action.
- VI. The Board President and/or the Superintendent of Schools will investigate and respond to each speaker on questions or concerns within one week.
- VII. The president shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of

POLICY

SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONS

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the subject being presented. The president shall have the right to discontinue presentation which violates this policy.

Watertown City School District

Adopted: 04/06/93

Revised: 12/05/00, 09/04/12, 03/02/21, 11/01/22, 12/16/25

Reviewed: 04/02/19