

File: BEDH - PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

To ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. The public comment segment will be scheduled for 15 minutes and may be extended by the Chair or their designee. Each speaker has up to three (3) minutes and should address their remarks through the Chair or their designee in a respectful manner. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the School Committee.
2. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of the School Committee's authority.
3. The Sudbury School Committee will have two ways in which the public can access public comment:
 - a. In-Person participation. Participants choosing to attend in person may attend the meeting and register upon arrival by signing their full name, city and town where they reside.
 - b. Remote participation. Remote attendees on Zoom should use the "Raise Hand" feature (in the Reactions menu, or under "More" on mobile) and must type their full name into the Zoom name field to be called on. When called upon, participants will have to say their full name, city and state before making public comment.
4. For in-person and remote meetings, attendees will be called in the order in which they signed up. For hybrid meetings, the Chair or their designee will alternate between in-person and remote participants. During the meeting, all individuals participating in the public forum, whether in person or online, will be recognized by the Chair or their designee in chronological order, alternating between formats for hybrid sessions.

5. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct.
6. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair or their designee before or after the meeting.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30A: 18-25

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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Approved by Sudbury School Committee: December 4, 2025