



Orange Southwest School District

24 Central Street, Randolph, VT

802-728-5052

CODE: A21

(Recommended)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Policy

It is the policy of the OSSD board of directors to encourage public participation at its meetings.

Background

Public participation is very important to the successful function of the Orange Southwest School District. The board wants to carry out its business with the benefit of public input and expertise. It also wants to keep the public informed and up-to-date on what is happening within the community's schools.

Implementation

During a meeting, the public shall be given an opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the board as long as order is maintained. Public comment shall be subject to reasonable rules established by the chair.¹ Such rules should be established at the start of every meeting or set out in the agenda, and may take into consideration such things as the length of each speaker's presentation, the number of people who wish to speak, or the number of times each speaker may comment. The chair shall rule out of order any presentation to the board which does not comply with Board policy on complaints or which breaches the privacy or other rights of students, parents, or school employees. The opportunity for the public to provide comment shall not apply when the board is engaged in quasi-judicial proceedings.

Persons Who May Address the Board

1. Any district resident.
2. District employees, students, and parents.
3. Individuals who have been requested by the superintendent or the board to present on a given subject.
4. Persons directly affected by matters on the meeting agenda.
5. Others at the discretion of the board.

VSBA Version:	January 2, 2026
Date Warned:	June 17, 2026
Date Adopted:	July 8, 2026
Legal Reference(s):	1 V.S.A. §§ 310 et seq. (Public meetings) 16 V.S.A. § 554(b) (School board meetings)
Cross Reference:	Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation and Distribution

¹ 1 V.S.A. § 312(h).

