

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Regional 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 Regional School Committee desires citizens of the district 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 the wishes and ideas of the public.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to insure the ability of the Committee to conduct the district's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled Regional School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee. The length of the public participation segment shall be determined by the chairperson.
2. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. The presiding chairperson may permit extension of this time limit.
3. Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.
4. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
5. All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.
6. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.
7. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members review and consideration at an appropriate time.

From Regional School District Bylaws (Article IV Time, Place, Regulations)

10. All meetings of the School Committee for the official transaction of business shall be open to the public except that the Committee, may, by vote of the Committee, meet in an Executive Session in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. Time may be reserved at regular meetings of the Committee for audience of citizen groups, and any citizens wishing an audience with the Committee shall make arrangements in advance with the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence with the Superintendent of the King Philip Regional School District.