

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- BOARD MEETINGS

The public is encouraged to attend meetings of the school board and to listen to and observe its deliberations. The board also recognizes the value of public comment and provides opportunities for it at regular meetings under the agenda item, "Communications," or if deemed appropriate by the president, at the time a specific agenda item is addressed.

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. In order to permit fair orderly expression of such comment, the board will provide a period at the beginning of the meeting during which visitors may make formal presentations. Such presentations should be scheduled in advance through the superintendent.

The board will also allow individuals to express an opinion prior to board action on agenda items. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board shall first be recognized by the president. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The board requires that such participants be either residents or employees of the district or the designee of such residents or employees. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the board shall also be entitled to express an opinion. The president may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant. The board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

In order that the board may conduct both orderly and effective meetings, certain procedures will be followed:

- A. Comments will normally be limited to five minutes. If there are a number of people to be heard, the president may further limit comments or request continuance at a later meeting. When appropriate, the president may select representatives to speak on each side of an issue. Individuals addressing the board should stand and address the president and give name, address, and name of the group, if any, being represented.
- B. When possible, an individual desiring to comment should notify the superintendent one week in advance of the board meeting at which he/she wishes to comment so the agenda may be planned accordingly. Unscheduled communications may also be heard by the board to the extent consistent with the agenda and time limitations.
- C. The president may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, defamatory, abusive, repetitive, obscene, or irrelevant. It is inappropriate to discuss sensitive personnel matters at board meetings. The board as a whole shall have the final decision on such rulings.
- D. Comments at board meetings by employees, or their representatives, on matters related to employee grievances or collective bargaining with employee unions will be discouraged. Separate channels exist to accommodate these matters pursuant to bargaining agreements and grievance procedures.

FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 502
BOARD POLICY

No. 1441/4121

At the conclusion of the meeting, the president will allow any individual to speak to any issue not included on the agenda.

Legal References:

RCW 42.30.030
RCW 42.30.050

Meetings declared open and public
Interruptions--procedures

Adopted 03-19-81
Adopted 09-17-81
Revised 09-22-94