

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT	BEDH-R
Policy Committee: September 9, 2021 School Board Public Hearing/First Read: October 6, 2021 School Board Second Read Adoption: October 20, 2021 Policy Committee Review: January 12, 2023 & 2/9/23 School Board First Read: February 15, 2023 Back to Policy: March 9, 2023 School Board First Read: April 5, 2023 School Board Second Read/Adoption: April 5, 2023	

## PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS - PROCEDURE

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board values public input to the School Board through public comment time during School Board meetings as well as communications by email, letter, and other means.

In Public Comments, the School Board seeks to:

1. Include comments from as many Oyster River community members and parents or guardians of students who attend District schools in the time allotted for public comments.
2. Ensure multiple positions are reflected in public comments.
3. Maintain respectful deliberation of school district matters.

To facilitate these goals, the following procedure is established:

Public Comments are included on the agenda of the Regular and Workshop meetings of the School Board at which a quorum is present. This procedure does not apply to emergency meetings, Annual Meetings of the District (which are the responsibility of the Moderator), nor to Public Hearings.

Public Comments are generally expected to be Individual comments. Group presentations will generally not be permitted outside of the time afforded to each individual speaker during Public Comments. Speakers are discouraged from consecutively reading verbatim a lengthy written statement. Individuals speaking during Public Comments may not delegate or assign their time to another individual.

Individuals who may speak during Public Comment include, residents of the District, parents or guardians of students who attend District schools and students. Other Non-residents who wish to speak will be required to receive authorization from the Board Chair prior to the meeting.

Individuals who wish to speak at the School Board meeting may be required to indicate their interest in speaking by signing-in prior to the start of the meeting. Sign-in may require names, home address, and topic(s) for comments. Alternatively, the School Board Chair may solicit information in other ways based on attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

The School Board Chair is responsible for managing time during Public Comments. Public Comments will typically be limited to 3 minutes per person, though the Chair may reduce that time if the number of speakers is 10 or more. Generally, no more than 18 speakers will be accommodated in any 30-minute public comment period.

As an agenda item, Public Comments may be extended by action of the Board in the modification and approval of the meeting Agenda.

Individuals preventing others from speaking or being heard or disrupting the School Board meeting outside of their designated public comment time may be directed by the Chair to leave the meeting.

### **Legal Reference:**

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public  
RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions  
RSA 189:74: Public Comment

### **Cross Reference:**

BEDH – Public Participation at a Board Meeting  
BEDH-R1  
BEA – Regular Board Meetings  
BEC – Non-Public Sessions  
BEDB – Agenda Preparation and Format  
KEB – Complaints about School Personnel