

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 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 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. Citizens will be heard at the interested citizens' portion of the agenda.
2. Citizens may also be heard on specific issues at other points on the agenda with approval of the Chairman.
3. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. The presiding chairperson may permit extension of this time limit.
4. Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.
5. 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.
6. All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.
7. 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
8. 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.

SOURCE: MASC Policy

Adopted: December 15, 1994

Revised: July 12, 2000