
**PEACHAM SCHOOL BOARD POLICY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

Prepared for 1st reading: 8/7/02 Warned for hearing: 8/23/02 Adopted: 9/3/02
Prepared for 2nd reading: 8/22/02

Copies to: Principal: ___ School Library: ___ Board Members: ___ CCSU: ___ Town Clerk: ___ Town Library: ___

Policy

It is the policy of the Board to encourage public participation at its meetings.

Background

Public participation is very important to the successful function of the Peacham School District. The guidelines set out below are intended to permit ample opportunity for public input while complying with Robert's Rules for Small Boards and the Open Meeting Law. To allow adequate time for each agenda item, the board must maintain control of the time spent on each topic. Also, in the interest of allowing full public participation, the Board wishes to avoid discussion on topics that have not been warned on the agenda.

Implementation

Reasonable rules of participation may be used to ensure that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion and that the business at hand is completed in a timely manner. Such rules may take into consideration such things as length of each speaker's presentation and the number of times each speaker may comment.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

1. The Chair will ask for comments on agenda items before action is taken by the Board
2. When the number of people wishing to speak is large, the Board may authorize the Chair to use a speakers' list. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to sign the speakers' list, indicating which agenda item will be addressed

Persons Who May Address the Board

1. Any District Resident
2. School staff members, students and parents
3. Individuals who have been requested by the Superintendent or the Board to present a given subject
4. Persons who are directly affected by matters on the Board agenda
5. Others at the discretion of the Board.

The Board may limit public comment on agenda items to a specific time period and to one opportunity per individual per agenda item.

Public input on items not on the agenda

1. There will be time set aside for public input on items not on the agenda at every regular, special or emergency meeting of the Board.
2. The time allotted to this item will be assigned by the Chair or the person responsible for organizing the agenda.

3. The Chair shall rule out of order any presentation to the Board which breaches the privacy or other rights of students, parents or school employees, or which does not comply with Board policy on complaints.
4. The Board Chair shall not allow discussion or response to any public input without unanimous consent of the Board.

Any District resident may ask the Board Chair at least 10 days before a meeting to put an item on the agenda for discussion. The Board Chair and the Superintendent shall have the discretion to determine whether the request will be granted.

Legal Reference(s): 1 V.S.A. §§310 et seq. (Public Meetings); 16 V.S.A. §554 (b) (School Board Meetings)