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Applicable Statute	

Policy Statement:

As a public charter school of choice, Great River School welcomes and values the contribution of all stakeholders - staff members, parents, students and community members - in creating a learning environment so that our students can achieve their goals and aspirations. To facilitate the involvement of our stakeholders the board of directors encourages stakeholders to utilize the public comment period at board meetings to share their goals and dreams for Great River School. The board has established the following procedures for public comment process at board meetings to ensure that all voices have an equal opportunity to be heard, while respecting the rights of individuals, and recognizing the responsibilities of the board.

Procedures:

1. The board of directors meetings will start at 6pm for public comment. The total time period for public comment will be a maximum of 15 minutes. Other board business will begin promptly at 6:15pm, or earlier if there are fewer individuals wishing to make comments.
2. Individuals may sign-up in advance of the meeting by emailing the Executive Committee (providing the following information: name, address, phone number, email address and the issue(s) the individual is signing up to address) or they may sign-up at the meeting, but the sign-up will end when the Public Comment session begins.
3. For the benefit of the board secretary, individuals when addressing the board must indicate their name, connection to the school (parent, staff, community member, other) and the subject they are addressing noting if it is related to an agenda specific area (items being addressed on that meeting's formal agenda) or a non-agenda related topic.
4. Agenda specific items (items being addressed on that meeting's formal agenda) will be taken first, non-agenda specific comments will follow.
5. Individuals will be allotted a maximum of 5 minutes. If a situation arises where it is apparent that time will run short and not everyone can be accommodated in the allotted Public Comment period, the board chair shall reduce the time allotted to each individual to 1 minute. If a large group wishes to address one subject, they may be asked to coordinate amongst themselves in order to present their subject within a time allotted by the chair.
6. Individuals must not include names of school employees and / or titles, or names of students in their remarks for their own legal protection and the legal rights of staff or students. Issues related to school employees should be made in writing and submitted to the Board Chair and / or Head of School in accordance with school policy.
7. During the public comment period, board members will not ask questions of the individuals speaking. Except for items included on the published meeting agenda, the board will not take immediate action based upon comments made during the public comment period.
8. The official, published meeting minutes of the board meeting will reflect all comments made during the public comment period.