File: BEDH - PUBLIC COMMENT 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 individuals 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 public comment.

Public comment is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's jurisdiction. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson and nothing prohibits the Chair from responding to any statements made during public comment.

To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.

2. Comments and complaints regarding specific school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are prohibited.

3. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct.

4. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Weymouth School Committee.

5. As this is a public business meeting of the School Committee, the Chairperson is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the policies of the School Committee are being followed during public meetings and that the Committee is following the agenda.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30A: 18-25

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BEDB, AGENDA FORMAT

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2023