

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

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All School Board meetings shall be open to the public, except those authorized by law to be closed. While the public has the right to attend Board meetings, no individuals or groups have the right to enter into the discussions or deliberations of the Board unless they have been invited by the Board to do so.

The Board invites the public to speak at regular monthly Board meetings in three ways:

1. A public forum shall be scheduled at the beginning of the Board meeting for the purpose of hearing public comments on items included on the meeting agenda.
2. A public forum shall be scheduled near the end of the Board meeting for the purpose of hearing public comments on any subject matter that is within the jurisdiction of the school board.
3. An individual or group may request to be placed on a meeting agenda for the purpose of making a presentation to the Board. Such requests may be submitted to the District Administrator or Board President prior to the meeting in accordance with the Board's policy on agenda preparation and dissemination. Due to the need to prioritize meeting time and the need to prioritize the issues that the Board addresses, not all such requests are approved.

The Board vests in its Board President, as the presiding officer, authority to recognize all speakers and maintain proper order at Board meetings. Each speaker should receive recognition from the presiding officer and then state his/her opinions briefly and concisely. At the outset of the public comment period, the presiding officer may limit the time allowed for such presentations in the aggregate and/or in terms of the length of time each person will be permitted to speak.

Any additional opportunities for public participation during Board meetings must be expressly authorized by a motion and vote of the Board.

The Board shall not discuss or act upon any item of business not included in the public notice of the meeting, except as specifically authorized by law.

## Legal References:

### Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 19.81](#) [state policy on open meetings]  
[Section 19.83\(2\)](#) [discussion during period of public comment]  
[Section 19.84\(2\)](#) [public notice of board meetings, including public comment period]  
[Section 19.85](#) [exemptions to open meetings]

## Cross References:

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