

AMHERST Policy

BEDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board encourages and welcomes public attendance and participation of all board meetings:

1. All meetings of the board, for the official transaction of business, shall be open to the public; however, the board may, by majority vote, meet in non-public session per RSA91-A.
2. A portion of the open meeting will be allotted to receive comments from citizens. Issues which require an extended period of time may be deferred to the next business meeting, or to a special meeting called by the board. The Chairperson may set a time limit on the length of the public comments portion of the meeting.
3. Citizens who wish to address the board are encouraged to notify the Chairperson, or Superintendent, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that the board may be better prepared to offer assistance or to respond to the comment, question, or concern.
4. Each citizen's comments may be limited to five (5) minutes per topic, at the discretion of the Chairperson.
5. Public comments on agenda items may be allowed or terminated as follows:
 - A. A member of the board may request the Chairperson to determine whether the board wishes to hear from citizens on the subject.
 - B. The Chairperson may rule that adequate discussion has been heard. If the ruling of the Chairperson is challenged by a member, the board must be polled with the vote of the majority prevailing.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:3, Public Records and Meeting; Non-Public Sessions

ADOPTED: September 11, 1990

REVISED: May 7, 2001

September 24, 2001