

Timberlane Regional School Board	Policy Code: BEDH
Revised: 09-17-92 Revised: 12-03-98 Revised: 09-20-01 Revised: 06-04-15 Revised: 01-07-21 Revised: 07-20-23	Page 1 of 2

PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Related Policies: BEDB, KE, KEB

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board as it relates to school policies, programs and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

1. During the “Delegations and Individuals” section of each Board meeting residents may comment for no more than three minutes (unless waived by the Board) by completing a comment card and submitting it to the recording secretary at the beginning of the meeting.
2. The Board will provide a minimum of thirty minutes to hear public comment. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Additionally, the Board may include additional public comment periods for specific agenda items with a time limit for public comment specified on the pertinent agenda. If speakers do not fill the minimum 30-minute public comment period, the Board will move to table the remainder of the time until the end of the meeting or immediately before a scheduled nonpublic session. If insufficient speakers remain to fill the 30 minutes, the Board will close public comment.
3. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent in accord with Policies KE and KEB.
4. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.

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Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board. Therefore, Board members will take comments and presentations from the public under advisement only. Persons appearing before the board are also reminded that School Board meetings are meetings held in public; not meetings held for the public.

Legal Reference:

- RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public*
- RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions*
- RSA 189:65, VII & VII-a - Definitions (Student and Teacher personally identifiable information)*
- RSA 189:74, School Board Public Comment Period*
- RSA 644:2, Disturbing the Peace*

Appendix BEDH-X