

Public Participation at Board Meetings

Since public understanding and support are basic to the existence of the school system, every effort shall be made to keep the public informed about the progress and any problems in the Wallingford Public Schools. Citizens and persons representing the media are extended a standing invitation to attend Board meetings. All Board meetings are open to the public except for executive sessions.

Citizens desiring to present their concerns, raise questions, or make suggestions to the Board regarding the schools may do so at Board meetings so long as they are consistent with the provisions of this policy. Audiences requested by professional personnel acting as such shall be granted and conducted as provided by Board policy and regulations, appropriate negotiated agreements, and the law.

Provisions for permitting any individual group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

1. A public question and answer period shall be provided in which citizens are encouraged to ask questions or make comments or suggestions pertaining to the Wallingford School System. If individual questions cannot be answered during the meeting, the chairperson will direct the question to the appropriate person or committee to provide the information requested.
2. Individuals may comment on or ask questions of the Board of Education as each agenda item is discussed. The chairperson will recognize individuals from the audience at the conclusion of the Board's discussion, but before a vote or consensus is taken. Following public input, Board members will be permitted to reopen discussion of the matter before a vote or consensus is taken.
3. The chairperson has the right to limit the length of discussion.
4. No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for the chairperson to terminate that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the chairperson may clear the room so that the Board may continue the meeting. Duly accredited representatives of the news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend the reconvened meeting.
5. No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference, which tends to identify the employee. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provisions of board policy KLD – *Public Complaints About School Personnel*.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1-21h. Conduct of meetings.

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