

Code: BEDH

**MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The School Board conducts meetings to carry out the official business of the school department. The board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. To permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the procedures described in this policy will be followed.

The board will ask members of the public for comment prior to board action on agenda items dealing with policy or the expenditure of funds. Requests to address the board on matters not on the agenda must be made in writing to the superintendent or school board chair and must set forth the specifics of the subject to be addressed. When appropriate, the request will be placed on the agenda. The board will not entertain public comment about specific individuals. Such matters should be referred to the appropriate administrator.

The board chair is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of board meetings. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board will be recognized by the board chair. After identifying themselves, speakers may make brief comments. All speakers must observe rules of common etiquette. The board chair may set a time limit on the length of public comment and/or a time limit for individual speakers. The board chair will stop any public comment that is contrary to these rules. Persons who disrupt a board meeting may be required to leave in order to permit the orderly consideration of the matters for which the meeting was called.

Except in an emergency, the board will not take action on any issues before the administration has had an opportunity to research the issue and make recommendations to the board.

Legal References:

1 M.R.S.A. § 401
20-A M.R.S.A. § 1001

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