

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At each regularly scheduled Committee meeting for which the agenda calls for public comment, the Committee will have one or two 15-minute Public Comment sections, as time allows. The first section shall generally follow the opening of the meeting, and the second section shall generally follow the final agenda item of the meeting.
2. Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than 3 minutes. No citizen may speak more than once without permission of the Chair. All speakers shall speak to the full Committee through the Chair and shall not address individual members or administrators.
3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. Speakers may offer comments regarding school goals, policies, budgets, operations and programs, the performance of the Superintendent, and any other matter within the School Committee's scope of responsibility, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints regarding school personnel, students, or others which are outside the scope of the Committee's responsibility.
4. To ensure that matters not on the agenda are not deliberated on without proper notice, members of the School Committee will not engage in dialogue with members of the public during public comment, without permission from the Chair. Any Committee member may direct questions to the speaker through the Chair in order to clarify comments of the speaker.
5. Improper conduct will not be allowed. Defamatory, improper, or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or defamatory, improper, or abusive remarks after a warning, the Chair may terminate that individual's privilege of address. Defamatory remarks shall mean remarks that have been adjudicated defamatory. Improper and/or abusive remarks shall mean obscenities, vulgarities, threats, and fighting words or remarks likely to provoke a violent reaction.

6. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Duxbury School Committee.

7. In accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, §20(g), no person shall address a meeting of the Committee without permission of the Chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the Chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee. If, after clear warning from the Chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the Chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the Chair may authorize a constable or other officer, or the meeting host for any remote attendee, to remove the person from the meeting.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. c. [30A: 18-25](#)

CROSS REFS: [BE](#), SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

[BEC](#), EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

[BEDA](#), NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Last revised: August 5, 2021