

PUBLIC COMMENT AT HENNIKER SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The Henniker School Board desires citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and programs of the school. 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, to discuss such matters as are properly considered in Executive Session in accordance with RSA 91 A:3.

The Board recognizes the importance of public input on the issues presented at board meetings. In order to assure that person who wish to appear before the Board may be heard, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation:

1. Public comment will appear twice on the agenda—once at the beginning and once just before new business. Generally, public comment will be closed after ten minutes or whenever there are no further comments, whichever comes first.
2. All those attending are invited to sign the attendance sheet and indicate if he/she wishes to speak. The Chair will recognize each attendee who wishes to speak.
3. Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, which is represented.
4. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Individual presentations should last no longer than 3-5 minutes. Written remarks are encouraged.
5. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide for Board consideration and this position of legitimate complaints involving individuals. The Board vests in its Chairperson the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to the content or time limitation.
6. Persons appearing before the Board are reminded as a point of information that the 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.
7. Normally, the School Board will not permit visitors at meetings to participate in the Board's discussion of agenda items. The significant workload of the Board does not permit the Board to actively engage in discussions with the visitors at Board Meetings. The appropriate time for citizens to make observations about various agenda items would be in the Public Participation Session at the start of each Board Meeting.

A copy of this policy appears online at <http://sau24.k12.nh.us>

Adopted 7/01/82 Proposed Revision 5/04 Adopted: 6/4/2004