

## Audience Participation

The board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the board will provide a period at the beginning of each Board meeting during which visitors may present to the board. If possible, such presentations should be scheduled in advance. The board will also allow individuals to express an opinion prior to board action on agenda items that the board determines require or will benefit from public comment.

Speakers may address items on or not on the agenda during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. All comments should address matters related to the Mary M. Knight School District. The School Board will not hear public comment that involves a complaint about an individual staff member, a personnel action, a student disciplinary matter, a complaint about an individual student, or pending litigation. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board will first be recognized by the *President*.

Written and oral comment will be accepted by the board before the adoption or amendment of policies not expressly or by implication authorized by state or federal law, but which will promote the education of kindergarten through twelfth grade students in public schools or will promote the effective, efficient or safe management and operation of the district.

**Board Meeting Behavior:** The School Board expects that each speaker will be courteous and respectful, modeling for our students how one can respectfully disagree with others' views. Speakers will address their comments to the entire School Board and not to one individual Board member, nor to the Superintendent, to a staff member, nor to the audience. Speakers will not engage in personal attacks.

- All members of the public attending School Board meetings must treat each other and the Board with respect.
- Individuals are not permitted to engage in conduct that interferes with the ability of other individuals to watch the Board meetings, interferes with the ability of other members of the public to offer comment to the Board, or interferes with the ability of the Board to conduct its business.

Individuals recognized by the Board President will identify themselves, and will be allowed to make comments within the time limit of 3 minutes as established by the board. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the board will also be entitled to express an opinion. The *President* may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The board as a whole has the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Individuals with disabilities who may need a modification to participate in a meeting should contact the superintendent's office no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so that arrangements for the modification can be made.

Cross References: 1400 - Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

Legal References: RCW 42.30.030 Meetings declared open and public  
RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions — Procedure  
42 U.S.C. 12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

Management Resources: 2012 - June Issue

Adoption Date: **06.23.97**

Classification: **Priority**

Revised Dates: **04.97; 02.18**