

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Gorham School Committee is committed to deliberating and acting in full view of the public. Members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings and to offer input or comments.

Generally, members of the public are expected to address their topic as it arises on the agenda. At the beginning of each meeting the Chair will ask if any member of the public wishes to speak to the Committee on topics which do not appear on the agenda.

During the comment period an individual will be limited to no more than five minutes of comment. Generally, the total period of public comment will be limited to fifteen minutes.

Speakers are asked to observe the following:

- A. In the case of a large audience, speakers may be asked to sign up before the meeting so they may be called on most expediently.
- B. Anyone with a legitimate interest in the Committee's business may speak. Employees or employee groups will not be permitted to discuss matters for which other, more appropriate forums are provided.
- C. All speakers are asked to identify themselves. Gossip, defamatory comments, or abusive or vulgar language will not be permitted.
- D. Speakers must address all comments and questions to the Chair.
- E. Comments will be heard and considered. Generally, the Committee does not discuss or act on an item not on the agenda.
- F. No complaints or allegations will be allowed in public concerning any staff member or any person connected to the school system.
- G. Speakers are asked not to be repetitious of comments already made to the Committee, in the interest of most efficient use of time.
- H. The primary purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to conduct its business as charged by the law. Spontaneous discussion, as well as disorder and disruption, prevent the Committee from doing its work and will not be permitted.
- I. The Chair has the final and exclusive authority to regulate the length or topic of public comment in the interest of allowing the School Committee to complete its agenda.

Adopted: January 10, 2001
Reviewed: April 10, 2002

