

Community Relations

Public Participation in Board of Education Meetings

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The regular and special meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public and representatives of the press, except that a part of any meeting may be designated an executive session, as provided by law.

The Board of Education welcomes participation of interested organizations and individuals. Advance announcement of all regular and special meetings of the Board of Education is made through posting the agenda, and may also include notices to newspapers. A reasonable charge may be made for those persons or organizations requesting advance announcements of meetings and agenda backup materials.

Board meetings are meetings held in public and are not open hearings. To enable the public to interact with the Board on topics pertaining to the school system, the agenda of the Board will be structured to allow a specific time for public comment, questions, or for the presentation of information or requests. Once the Board moves into regular agenda, the public may participate only as requested by the Chairperson and with the following restrictions.

1. Board members shall be recognized first for comments and/or questions.
2. Responses sought by the Chairperson from the public will be limited to the specific agenda items being discussed.
3. For the benefit of those attending Board meetings, persons wishing to address the Board shall give their names and addresses and speak clearly and slowly to allow accurate recording of their comments.
4. The Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, curtail public discussion at any time.
5. During the period designated for citizen comment, any citizen may express his/her opinion concerning the educational program of the district. The Board discourages discussion by the public of specific Board employees. Such concerns should be addressed first to that employee's immediate supervisor.

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6. It is the intention of the Board of Education to cooperate with appropriate officials, boards, committees, or other agencies of the Town of Vernon, and with organized groups of interested Vernon citizens. Any such individual or group requesting a meeting with the Board should present its request to the chairperson of the Board, or to the Superintendent, in ample time to allow for proper preparation of agenda items, notification of Board members, and establishment of a mutually agreeable meeting time and place.