

2480–PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Grand Island Board of Education shall be open to the public. Board meetings are held for the purpose of conducting official business of the school district. As such, Board meetings are not public forums but are meetings held in public.

The public shall have a right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of the Board of Education, and all or any part of the meeting may be recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder or any other means of sonic reproduction or in writing. The Board of Education reserves the right to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending its meetings and regarding their privilege to speak. The Board of Education is not required by law to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, nor may it forbid public participation at all meetings. Reference 84-1412.

A public comment period will be scheduled at each regular business and special meeting of the Grand Island Board of Education. At special meetings, public comment will be allowed on action items only. Individuals desiring to comment on Board-related matters should fill out a request form prior to the "Request To Address the Board" agenda item.

The Board president shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves, and for maintaining proper order and obtaining adherence to any time limit set.

Speakers will not be permitted to make defamatory comments or use abusive or vulgar language. Complaints about school personnel are to be discouraged at public meetings. Such complaints should be addressed to proper administrative authority.

The President of the Board as presiding officer shall insure orderly and timely progression of the public meeting and as such may set time limits on public discussion. The President has the prerogative to discontinue any presentation that violates any of the public participation guidelines. At the discretion of the President, proceedings may be suspended and/or the offending individual(s) may be removed.

Comments and questions at a regular meeting may deal with any topic related to the Board's conduct of the schools. Comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting. Members of the public should not expect an immediate response to issues raised. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred to the Board or administrative staff for consideration and possible response.

Reference: Ne. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

Policy Adopted 3/1/76

Policy Revised 9/9/91

Policy Revised 3/1/99

**Grand Island Public Schools
Requests to Address the Board of Education**

It is the desire of the Board of Education to allow for citizen input at regular business meetings. The Board also realizes the need for an orderly agenda to allow for an atmosphere conducive to decision-making processes. With this in mind, the Board has outlined the following procedure for citizens who wish to comment on educational matters.

Who may address the Board?

- Any Hall #2 resident
- Individuals who have been requested by the superintendent or Board to present on a subject
- Non-Hall #2 residents who have requested and received permission from the Superintendent

Time for public input

A time is allotted in the agenda of regular Board business meetings and special meetings immediately prior to action items. Regular Board business meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. Special meetings are held as needed for the purpose of taking action on items that for timing reasons cannot be addressed at the regular business meeting.

What can be discussed?

At regular business meetings any school district-related matter can be presented to the Board, but only agenda items can be acted upon during a given meeting. At special meetings comments will be limited to the subject of action items of that meeting's agenda. *Speakers will not be permitted to make defamatory comments, or use abusive or vulgar language. Expressions of personal complaints about staff or students are discouraged at public meetings. Concerns about individuals should be brought to the attention of the appropriate administrative authority. Specific building or program concerns should be brought to the attention of the building principal or program supervisor.*

Time limits

A maximum of thirty minutes at each regular and special meeting will be allotted for a public comment period. The President of the Board in the interest of regulating the meeting may set individual time limits.

Procedures for requesting to address the Board

Prior to the agenda item "Requests To Address the Board," fill out the form below and present it to the Superintendent or any Board member. The president of the Board will then call on individuals who wish to address the Board at the appropriate time.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Subject: _____
