

## 2480 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Grand Island Public Schools 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.

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.

Legal Reference: Ne. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

Policy Adopted 3/1/76

Policy Revised 9/9/91

Policy Revised 3-1-99

Policy Revised: 02.08.2018

2480.1 Grand Island Public Schools Request to Address the Board of Education

It is the desire of the Board of Education to allow for citizen input at regular business meetings held on the second Thursday of every month, as well as at other meetings called for the purpose of taking action on particular agenda items (special board 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.

**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 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 the 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**

Each individual addressing the board will be allowed 5 minutes. The Board of Education has the prerogative to limit speaking to 3 minutes when there are three or more patrons.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Request to Address the GIPS Board of Education**

### **Policy 2480.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

*The GIPS, in the COVID 19 Pandemic, requires all members and patrons attending the Board of Education meeting to wear a mask, be screened for temperature, and social distance at least 6 feet apart.*

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 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. Individuals desiring to comment on Board-related matters should fill out a request form prior to the “Request to Address the Board” agenda item.

#### **Time limits**

The Board of Education will allow 30 minutes or less for public comment. Each individual addressing the board will be allowed 5 minutes. The Board of Education has the prerogative to limit speaking to 3 minutes when there are three or more patrons. When 3 or more persons are present please limit speaking to issues that have not been addressed by the previous individual.

#### **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.

**(Please print)**

**Date:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Patron of GIPS and student attends what school(s):**

**Subject to address with the Board of Education:**