

# Washington West Supervisory Union Model Policy

## Policy C3

### **C3: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

#### **Policy**

It is the policy of the member district schools of the Washington West Supervisory Union: Fayston Elementary School, Harwood Union High School, Moretown Elementary School, Waitsfield Elementary School, Warren Elementary School, and the Waterbury/Duxbury Union School District (Crossett Brook Middle School and Thatcher Brook Primary School) to encourage public participation at their meetings.

#### **Background**

Public participation is very important to the successful function of all member district schools in the Washington West Supervisory Union. The Boards want to carry out their business with the benefit of public input and expertise. They also want to keep the public informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the community schools.

#### **Implementation**

Reasonable rules of participation may be used to insure that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion and that the business at hand is completed in a timely manner. Such rules may take into consideration such things as length of each speaker's presentation and the number of times each speaker may comment.

#### **Persons Who May Address the Boards**

1. Any District resident
2. School staff members, students and parents
3. Individuals who have been requested by the Superintendent or Principal or a Board to present a given subject
4. Persons who are directly affected by matters on a Board's agenda
5. Others at the discretion of a Board

#### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

1. A Chair will ask for comments on agenda items before action is taken by a Board.
2. When the number of people wishing to speak is large, a Board may authorize a Chair to use a speakers' list. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to sign the speakers' list, indicating which agenda item will be addressed.

#### **Public Input on Items not on the Agenda**

1. There will be time set aside for public input on items not on the agenda at every regular, special or emergency meeting of a Board.
2. The time allotted to this item will be assigned by a Chair or a person responsible for organizing the agenda.
3. A Chair shall rule out of order any presentation to a Board which breaches the privacy or other rights of students, parents or school employees, or which does not comply with a Board's policy on complaints.

Date Warned: 09.06.12  
Date Adopted: FES: 09.18.12; HUHS: 09.19.12; MES: 09.10.12; W-D: 09.11.12; WES: 09.17.12; WS: 09.19.12  
Legal Reference(s): 1 V.S.A. §§310 et seq. (Public meetings)  
16 V.S.A. §554 (b) (School board meetings)  
Cross Reference: Board Meetings (C2)  
Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Distribution (C1)