

Poplar School District

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1441

Audience Participation and Public Comment

It is important for all participants to remember that Board meetings are held in public but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairperson.

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. The Board also recognizes the statutory and constitutional rights of the public to participate in governmental operations. Montana law requires school districts and other public agencies to include on the agenda for public meetings an item allowing public comment on any public matter not otherwise specifically listed on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the District.

To allow fair and orderly expression of public comments, the Board will permit general comment public participation pertaining to Poplar School District issues that are NOT specifically listed on the agenda through oral or written comments during the District's General Purpose "public comment" section of the Board agenda. The Board will not engage in dialogue on public comment for items not specifically listed on the agenda. The Board will permit public comment specific to an agenda item prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The Chairperson shall control such comment to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting, placing further reasonable time limits on comments in order to maintain and ensure effective and efficient operations of the Board meeting.

Cross Reference: 1420

School Board Meeting Protocol

Legal Reference: Article II, Section 8 Montana Constitution – Right of participation
Article II, Section 10 Montana Constitution – Right of privacy
§ 2-3-101, et seq., MCA Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

Policy History

Adopted on:

Revised on: 11 July 2016