

**Policy #: 187**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER**  
**Date Adopted: May 17, 2011**  
**Date Revised: May 15, 2023**  
**Policy Title: Public Participation at Board Meetings**

The School Board encourages members of the public to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and programs of the schools and so that the Board may have an opportunity to hear the views and concerns of the public regarding educational issues.

A period for public comment shall be scheduled at each regular Board meeting, and except as otherwise specifically directed by the Board.

Comments during the period for public comment at regular monthly Board meetings may address any topic related to District operations and programs. The Board shall listen to speakers' views and concerns but shall not act on any matter that was not specifically included in the public notice of the meeting. During the public comment period, the Board shall not consider or discuss complaints or grievances regarding individual staff members or individual students. Any person who wishes to raise or pursue any such complaint or grievance is encouraged to submit the matter to the staff member's supervisor, to the appropriate building principal, or as a formal complaint in accordance with the District's [established complaint procedures](#).

The Board President or committee chair shall recognize all speakers. Each person when called upon will give their name and address and the name of any group they represent. Speakers shall be as brief as possible and only speak once during the period for public comment. Unless additional time is granted, a speaker shall limit his/her presentation to 5 minutes. In the event more than 4 individuals wish to speak during a scheduled public comment period, the presiding officer of the meeting may announce a limitation of not less than 20 minutes on the total amount of time that will be dedicated to the public comment period and/or reduce the period of time that is allocated to each speaker for not less than 3 minutes. It is not allowed for someone to sign up for time and allocate their time to another person.

Outside of the scheduled public comment period, and provided that no person was denied the opportunity to address the Board during the scheduled public comment period due to time constraints, the presiding officer of the meeting may permit additional audience comments on an agenda item at the point the item is reached during the course of the meeting. Permission for members of the audience to further address the Board in this manner shall be denied if the presiding officer determines that there is not an efficient and equitable way to handle audience interest in addressing an agenda item at that meeting.

The Board President may terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to established rules for public participation at Board and committee meetings, who speaks in a threatening or profane manner, or whose conduct is disruptive and impedes the Board's or committee's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and timely fashion. The period of public

**Cross Reference:**

**Legal Reference:** Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 19.81](#) [state policy on open meetings]
- [Section 19.83\(2\)](#) [discussion during period of public comment]
- [Section 19.84\(2\)](#) [public notice of board meetings, including public comment period]
- [Section 19.85](#) [exemptions to open meetings]

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comment is open only to district residents and a parent/guardian of open enrolled students, unless the board approves non-resident participation on a majority vote.

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