

LaMotte School District

Public Comment

The public has two opportunities to provide public comment at a Board meeting. These are during the “public comment on non-agenda items” portion of the meeting, and during “public comment” following a specific agenda item. Policies 1420 F and 1441 below capture the protocol for addressing the Board during public comment. Please be aware that:

The public will be called upon by the Board Chair in order of sign- in sheet.

The public will have a time limit, determined by the Board Chair.

The public comment portion of the meeting is not an inquisition of the Board, nor a question and answer format.

The public member is commenting his/her statements only.

Public recognition and input is at the discretion of the Board Chair

Notice Regarding Public Comment

1420F

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 agency. As has also been the practice of the District, and in accordance with Montana law, if any member desires to speak to an item that is *specifically listed/identified on the agenda*, you will be allowed to do so when the item comes up for discussion and action. The public comment portion of the agenda is not the time designated to hear items that are specifically listed/identified on the agenda.

For those individuals who desire to address the Board during the “public comment” portion of the meeting, if you haven’t already done so, please sign your name to the sheet located with the clerk and indicate the general topic on which you will be commenting. The Board Chairperson will call individuals to speak in the order listed on the sheet provided. The Board would like to remind everyone in attendance that to avoid violations of individual rights of privacy, a member of the public wishing to address the Board during this time will not be allowed to make comments about any student, staff member, or member of the general public during his/her designated time to speak. In addition the Board will not hear comments on contested cases or other adjudicative proceedings.

Depending on the number of persons who wish to address the Board, the Board Chairperson may place reasonable time limits on comments, in order to maintain and ensure effective and efficient operations of the Board.

By law the District cannot take any action on any matter discussed during the “public comment” portion of the meeting, until such time as the matter is specifically noticed on the agenda, and the public has been allowed the opportunity to comment.

Audience Participation

1441

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. To allow fair and orderly expression of public comments, the Board will permit public participation through oral or written comments during the “public comment” section of the Board agenda and prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The Chairperson may control such comment to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the Chairperson shall first be recognized by the Chairperson. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The Chairperson may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. **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.**