

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman of the Franklin School Committee shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and as such has the responsibility to conduct an effective business meeting.

In order to maintain open communication between the community and the Franklin School System, the School Committee will hear public comment not related to an agenda item at the beginning of each regular School Committee meeting. The Committee will listen to, but not respond to any comment made. A Committee member may add an agenda item to a future meeting as a result of a citizen comment.

Comments which concern individuals such as teachers, staff, principals or other school department employees are not in order as they would violate MGL c39 s23b Open Meeting Law. Moreover, school department employees are not public figures and are entitled to protection from defamatory statements. Accordingly, any such comments are not allowed at a public meeting.

Citizens may comment on matters which fall within the roles and responsibilities of the School Committee.

At the discretion of the Chairman, members of the public may speak to an agenda item if time allows.

If a member of the public wants to have an issue addressed at a business meeting, he/she must notify the Chairman in writing at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. The Chairman reserves the right to place the issue on the agenda, send the issue to sub committee, direct the issue to the appropriate school personnel or reject the request.

LEGAL REFS.:

M.G.L. 39: 23 B and C

CROSS REFS.:

BDB School Committee Officers

BEDB Order of business

KE Public Complaints

KE-E School Department Communication Procedur