SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND-GRANVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CODE:	**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**		
Category:	**Governance & Operations**	**Adopted:**	3/9/05
File No.:	**BEDH**	**Revised:**	12/15/2020; 11/2/2021; **11/4/2024**

All regular and special meetings of the school committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The school committee encourages citizens of the district and members of the school community to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

In order that all citizens and members of the school community who wish to be heard before the committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the committee to conduct the district's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. Remarks will be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns:
    - the power to select and terminate the superintendent,
    - the ability to review and approve budgets for public education in the district
    - the ability to establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the district.
2. During each regularly scheduled school committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the committee. The length of the public comment shall not exceed 15 minutes.
3. All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.
4. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin by stating their name and address. The presiding chairperson may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.
5. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
6. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School Committee.