

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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 desires citizens of the district 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 concerns of the public. Citizens may speak during meetings or submit written comments to the chair.

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

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled school committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the committee. The length of the public participation segment shall be determined by the chairman.
2. Speakers are encouraged to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.
3. Issues that are not agenda items for that meeting will be referred to the appropriate school official or subcommittee or will be placed on the agenda of the next school committee meeting.
4. 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 chairman may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
5. All remarks will be addressed through the chairman of the meeting.

6. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.
7. Brief written comments may be read at the meeting; lengthier comments may be submitted to the committee for review.

Adopted: May 28, 1997
Mohawk Trail Regional School District Committee