

Community Relations

Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

The regular and special meetings of the Orange Board of Education are open to the public and representatives of the press except that a part of any meeting may be designated an executive session as provided by law. (See [9324](#) for details)

The Orange Board of Education welcomes participation of interested organizations and individuals. Advance announcement of all regular and special meetings of the Board of Education is made through posting the agenda on the District website at www.oess.org and through Orange's Town Clerk. A reasonable charge may be made for those persons or organizations requesting advance announcements of meetings and agenda backup materials.

Board meetings are meetings held in public, but are not open hearings. Once the Board moves into regular agenda, the public may participate only as allowed by the Chairperson and with the following restrictions:

1. Questions and/or comments are to be restricted to the specific agenda item being discussed;
2. Board members shall be recognized first for comments and/or questions;
3. Questions and/or comments by the public may be restricted by the Board Chairperson;
4. The Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, curtail public discussion at any time.

Any citizen may appear before the Board to express his/her opinion concerning the educational program of the district. The public is advised that any discussion of specific Board employees will not be allowed at meetings and should be addressed to that employee's immediate supervisor. The Board agenda provides opportunities for comments and questions from persons attending the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Board should first give their names and addresses.

Board Relations with Community Organizations

It is the intention of the Board of Education to cooperate fully with appropriate officials, Boards, committees, or other agencies of the town, and with organized groups of interested citizens of the town. Any such individual or group requesting a meeting with the Board of Education should present its request to the Chairperson of the Board, or the Superintendent, in ample time to allow for proper preparation of agenda items, notification of Board members, and establishment of a mutually agreeable meeting time and place.

(cf. [1312](#) Public Complaints)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-225](#) Meetings of government agents to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.

[1-226](#) Broadcasting or photographing meetings.

[19a-342](#) Smoking in public meetings in rooms of public building prohibited.

[1-227](#) Mailing of notice of meetings to persons filing written request. Fees.

[1-230](#) Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or resolution.

[1-232](#) Conduct of meetings.

[1-205](#) Denial of access to public records or meetings.

[10-238](#) Petition for hearing by board of education.

Policy adopted: April 15, 2013