

Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

The Milton School Committee invites Milton residents to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of the Milton Public Schools. All regular and special meetings of the Committee are open to the public. (Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed in Policy BEC and by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.)

In addition, the Committee wants to hear the ideas and suggestions of Milton residents. In keeping with this goal, the Committee reserves up to the first 15 minutes of each of its regular meetings for "Citizens Speak."

In order to hear from as many Milton residents as possible, and also to enable the Committee to conduct the business of the Milton Public Schools in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. The length of Citizens Speak shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes, unless it is extended by the chairman. It shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes except by a vote of the majority of the Committee.
2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material, although the chairman may extend this time limit.
3. At the beginning of each regularly scheduled Committee meeting, Milton residents shall be invited to address the Committee. The chairman of the Committee shall instruct those Milton residents who wish to speak to sign in on the "Citizens Speak" sign-up sheet. He/she shall call to the attention of prospective speakers this policy, copies of which shall be available next to the sign-up sheet.
4. Citizens signing up to speak shall provide both their names and Milton addresses.
5. Speakers may offer such opinions of 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 member.
5. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order, and shall be ruled so by the chairman. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the chairman may terminate that individual's privilege of address.

6. All remarks from citizens will be addressed to the chairman of the meeting.
7. If a Committee member feels compelled to make a response to a citizen's speak, however, he or she shall address that response (normally not to exceed a minute in length) to the chairman of the meeting. From time to time the chair may ask administrators present to respond at the end of the meeting.
8. Written comments that would require more than three (3) minutes to read should be presented to the committee either before or after the meeting for review and consideration at an appropriated time.

Original Adoption: January 1998
Reapproved: April 3, 2013

First Reading: September 27, 2017
Second Reading: October 4, 2017
Reapproved: October 4, 2017