



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lincoln, Massachusetts

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The School Committee encourages citizens 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 wishes to extend the opportunity to hear the thoughts and ideas of the public regarding the operations and the programs of the public school system.

1. At the commencement of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, any individual or group representative will be invited to address the Committee. The length of the public participation segment shall be no longer than fifteen (15) minutes unless otherwise determined by the Chair. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, speakers should give their names and the issues they wish to discuss to the School Committee Chair who will recognize them in the same order as submitted. The Chair may then recognize other members of the audience.
2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material, additional time being extended at the discretion of the presiding Chair.
3. Speakers are expected to abide by the District Core Values, which include valuing open, honest and respectful communication that leads to greater understanding and creative solutions to complex problems.
4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate a speaker's time if the speech is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.
5. Topics for discussion may include those items listed on the School Committee Meeting Agenda for that evening, or any school related matters with the proviso that the School Committee will ensure that proper channels of communication by the public through the teaching staff and administration will be observed.
6. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.
7. Speakers may offer criticism of the schools' operation and/or programs, but in public session, the Committee will not entertain personal complaints regarding school personnel or other members of the school community over whom they do not have supervisory authority. Complaints involving staff members must follow administrative channels.
8. Written comments may be presented to the School Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members' review and consideration at an appropriate time.
9. All matters will be taken under advisement by the School Committee. Committee members will not engage in debate with speakers over issues presented except for workshop/forums that are structured for this purpose. Committee members may choose to comment on issues raised. Administrative staff may be called upon to correct any factual errors in statements made.

Adopted at School Committee Meeting of December 15, 2022