

For Public Comment - to be attached to each agenda:

1. One person speaks at a time. After being recognized by the chair, individuals should stand and state name and town of residence. If there are a lot of people hoping to speak, we will circulate a sign-up sheet.
2. Each speaker will have a maximum of 3 minutes. Time for public comment might be limited and we cannot guarantee everyone a chance to speak. No one will have the chance to speak twice until those wanting to speak have had a chance to do so once.
3. Speakers must debate positions and stick to the topic being discussed. Personal attacks will not be allowed.
4. We expect civil discourse that is respectful and uses appropriate tone.
5. We will call a speaker out of order if these rules are not followed and the individual may be asked to leave the meeting.
6. Public comment is for providing input. It is not a discussion or question or answer period. Those with questions about board actions may request an answer in writing.
7. Discussion having to do with deliberation is for the board and administration. It should not take place between the audience and board.
8. Public comment will generally come at the beginning of meetings unless otherwise agreed to in advance by the board.

Adopted 9/20/17

Thank you for coming to out to our HUUSD board meeting this evening. We welcome community input and want to explain the rationale behind our process for public comment. As a large board representing six communities and overseeing seven schools, we need to follow our agendas in order to complete the necessary business of the district. It would be a dis-service to our community to bypass or delay items on our agenda in order to address individual comments at board meetings. At the same time, we want to hear from constituents and public comment at board meetings is one venue for us to hear your voices. While we may not respond to you at the moment, we will respond in writing if you so desire. We have discussed this at length as a board, debating how to balance the inclusion of public comment while recognizing that many of our constituents are not present at meetings and yet deserve to have their concerns and needs addressed. We recognize that the six boards that preceded our Act 46 merger handled public comment in a variety of different ways and our current procedure may constitute a significant change for folks who are used to a more informal back and forth conversation between board members and members of the public. The Vermont School Boards Association has guided our decision and has indicated that this is the recommended practice and one that most school boards in the state now follow. When one or two or even twenty individuals speak to an issue, we take careful note. At the same time, we consider what other voices in our community are asking us to do - whether through their letters, their calls or their votes - and we must remember that we have a mandate from our voters to deliver on the promises of Act 46 to spend tax dollars efficiently to deliver high quality education to all of our students, preK - 12. Please know that while we will not engage in a discussion or debate on your comments, we are eager to hear your thoughts and hope you will continue to attend our meetings in order to understand the board's oversight of our schools.

Amended 10/25/17