

# WCSD BOE Visitor Speaking Policy

The Board of Education invites the public to comment on matters regarding the school district; taxpayers, community citizens, school personnel, and school students may openly express themselves directly to the board. The public comment section of the meeting is a time for the Board of Education to listen. Board meetings are held in public and are the sole opportunity to conduct the business of the district. Meetings are not an opportunity to engage in dialogue and are not public forums.

Persons wishing to address the board should register with the district clerk by noon of the meeting day by phone call or visit [www.board/home@webstercsd.org](http://www.board/home@webstercsd.org). Speakers should limit comments to 3-4 minutes. Persons wishing to speak should first be recognized by the president, then identify themselves, any organization they may be representing at the meeting, and the agenda topic they wish to discuss. Public speaking time will occur at the conclusion of the meeting and will be no longer than 40 minutes.

It is imperative that speakers address the board in a civil manner, refrain from discussing specific personnel or students, limit outbursts, and limit unnecessary noise. Comments naming specific personnel should be addressed privately or in writing to the Board in order to protect individual's rights. Matters that would infringe upon student privacy will not be addressed in this public forum. The board encourages an atmosphere of respect and tolerance and strict adherence to the district's code of conduct.

Should persons act in a manner inconsistent with district protocols, they may lose the privilege of the floor. Often students are in attendance and expectations for positive behavior are clear for all.

The board would like to encourage speakers to continue conversations through other means including phone calls and follow-up meetings with a district administrator to further address any questions or concerns. The board encourages parents and community members to become involved and informed, utilizing the proper channels of communication to do so. Because school boards do not manage the daily operation of the district, we encourage you to seek any clarity on specific issues or questions you may have by reaching out to your child's teacher or building administrator.

The BOE recognizes public education may include controversial issues. However, the BOE believes challenging issues can be addressed in a civil manner, while promoting respect and tolerance for all. We encourage the positive engagement of all stakeholders.

The president is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion, the appropriateness of the subject being presented, suitability of the time for such a presentation, and may impose time limitations on individual speakers. The board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.