

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Public comment about the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (“District”) is welcomed by the School Board whenever motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program. Any person or group having an interest in the operation of the District shall have the right to present a request, suggestion, comment, or concern relating to personnel, programs, or operations of the District.

Comments and concerns related to curriculum, methods of instruction, instructional materials, or District employees shall be submitted in writing to the principal of the school and the Superintendent. Comments and concerns thus submitted will be considered by the Superintendent or their designated assistants and the principal. At the discretion of the Superintendent, a committee may be appointed, an existing committee may be utilized, or other action may be taken to review the matter in question and submit a written decision to the Superintendent.

Subject to the reasonable rules and registration process described below, the Board shall allow members of the public, physically present at a meeting, to provide oral comment before the Board takes final action on a topic. The Board may choose to allow public comment during an electronic meeting held during a declared emergency or local disaster.

- a. To allow for an efficient meeting, the total amount of time dedicated to public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board may increase the time allotted for public comment to meet obligations under law.
- b. The Board shall allot each person providing public comment three (3) minutes to speak.
- c. Persons wishing to address the Board on an agenda item [or other topics germane to Board business] shall sign in on the appropriate form at the beginning of the Board meeting. The registration form will include the name of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any), and identify the agenda item to be addressed.
- d. No person may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- e. In order to receive public comment on all agenda items scheduled for final action, the Board will take speakers on a first-come, first-served basis according to the sign-in form.

Also at each regular public meeting, the Board will provide a period of time for members of the community to share public comment on topics that are not on the agenda. Comments should be germane to overall school board business, including, but not limited to, topics such as curriculum, budget/financials, or school safety.

The purpose of public comment is to give the Board members as much information as possible, not to engage in debate. Board members or administrators may provide answers to questions asked during public comment if the information is readily available and not confidential. Often, however, questions will not be answered, but taken under advisement and answers may be returned at a later time.

The Board will not tolerate comments that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, defamatory, or personally attacking. Comments should be directed to the Board, not an individual Board member.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the Board from taking reasonable steps to maintain order in a meeting, including removal of any person who is willfully disruptive of the meeting.

I.C. 20-26-5-4
20 U.S.C. 1232h

Metropolitan School District of Washington Township

Adopted: 11/13/24
Revised: [date]