

Welcome to a Meeting of



YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

WE'RE PLEASED YOU TOOK THE TIME TO JOIN US! AS ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR CONCERNS AND OPINIONS.

Our hope is that this meeting will give you a better understanding of just how the school district operates. We encourage public participation in our meetings and welcome your comments. If you are interested in addressing the board, please review the procedure for public comment in this pamphlet. If you are here just to listen and learn, that's great! Just sit back and get a feel for "democracy in action."

School Board Meetings

The board meets monthly and those meetings are open to the public. The board's meetings dates are announced in advance.

Special meetings, also open to the public, are scheduled when needed. These sessions provide an opportunity for the school board to examine specific issues more thoroughly.

Executive meetings, in accordance with Oregon law, are closed to the public. Items the board may discuss in executive session include: personnel matters, collective bargaining strategies, property purchases, discussions with legal counsel, students' confidential records, and expulsion of students. News media representatives may attend executive sessions that deal with personnel matters, property purchases and discussion with legal counsel, but cannot report on these meetings. Any action resulting from discussion in executive session must be taken in public session except for student expulsion.

What's on the agenda?

The board agenda is available before each board meeting and can be obtained at the school district office. Background information on agenda items is available at board meetings.

The agenda is divided into three major categories:

CONSENT AGENDA consists of routine items such as previous board minutes, routine personnel actions and routine financial transactions. Normally, there is little or no discussion on these items.

ACTION ITEMS are addressed individually by the board and may include reports from district administrators.

REPORTS are presented for the board's information and require no formal action.

In addition, audience discussion on non-agenda items is permitted at the beginning of the meeting. Audience members who wish to comment on agenda items will be called upon at the appropriate time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The board welcomes the public's comments on topics and concerns that affect the education of students. When stating an opinion before the board, a statement of facts on which the opinion is based is particularly helpful to the board in making a decision. The board is also interested in your comments for viable solutions and ways of involving others who would be affected by the offered solution.

Anyone wishing to speak before the board, either as a group or individual, may do so by providing the Board Secretary with a completed registration card prior to the start of the meeting. This allows the chair adequate time for each agenda item.

Each person invited by the chair shall be given three (3) minutes. The chairman may, at his/her discretion, establish a time limit for the discussion of a particular issue. The person should state his/her name and address and if speaking for an organization, the name and identify of the organization. The Spokes person should be designated to represent a group with a common cause.

Speakers may offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, but **the board will not hear complaints concerning individual school personnel.** In addition, no one other than a parent may refer to student by name or give information likely to identify the student if the issue concerns confidential student information such as disability or behavior. The chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate person for consideration and disposition of the concern.

The public participation section of the meeting will be for a maximum of 30 minutes, unless there is a consensus of the board to increase the time allotment.

Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who causes a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so may be declared a trespasser.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Questions asked by the public, when possible, will be answered immediately by the chair or referred to the superintendent for reply. Questions requiring investigation will be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time. The Board Chair will determine with the superintendent if it will be placed on a future agenda. The chair reserves the right to limit public debate on an issue(s) brought before the board.

Attorney General's Public Records and Meeting Manual states: "The right of public attendance guaranteed by the Public Meeting Law does not include the right to participate by public testimony or comment."

What does the School Board do?

The school district is governed by the school board elected by the district's registered voters. The board is authorized to:

- Establish policies that direct the school district;
- Employ and evaluate the superintendent;
- Negotiate with employee groups to determine salaries and benefits;
- Approve annual budgets;
- Authorize elections on bond proposals and other issues;
- Determine the long-range direction of the district; and
- Communicate with the community

Who can be a Board Member? ?

The board members are elected from the district to serve four-year terms.

To be eligible for election, a person must be a qualified voter and reside in the district for one year immediately preceding the election. Members of the board will serve without pay. Terms of office begin and end with the district's fiscal year, July 1. Officers of the board are elected annually at the first regular meeting.

Other ways to participate in your School District

There are many ways you can become involved in your schools.

As a Volunteer

From working with students in classroom to helping in the school business offices, there are multitudes of ways you can help. Please contact your school in which you would like to volunteer.

As a Member of a Special Committee or Standing Committee

The board appoints special advisory committees to investigate areas of concern. Community members serve on the district's curriculum and budget committees. Parents are urged to become involved in the schools' parent advisory committees and 21st Century School Councils. Please contact the Superintendent's office for more information.