

POLICY FAMILY	SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (BYLAWS)	123
<p data-bbox="162 262 414 394"><u>123.</u> Public Participation at School Committee Meetings</p> <p data-bbox="227 1270 349 1333">Amended 12/6/95</p> <p data-bbox="186 1701 389 1732">Adopted 9/28/94</p>	<p data-bbox="446 262 1453 346">All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public pursuant to the Open Meeting Law G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by that statute.</p> <p data-bbox="446 388 1445 514">The School Committee encourages citizens of the district to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of the Public Schools. In addition, the Committee wishes to expand the opportunities to hear the thoughts and ideas of the public regarding the operations and the programs of the Public School System.</p> <p data-bbox="446 556 1404 640">In order to provide maximum opportunity to all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee and to insure the ability of the Committee to conduct its business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are hereby adopted:</p> <ol data-bbox="495 651 1461 1984" style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Chairperson. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, speakers should give their names and the issues they wish to discuss to the School Committee Chairperson who will recognize them in the same order as submitted. 2. Speakers will be allowed no more than three (3) minutes to present their material with any additional time being extended at the discretion of the presiding Chairperson. 3. 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 insure that proper channels of communication by the public through the teaching staff and administration will be observed as prescribed by School Committee Policy. 4. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Any speaker who uses defamatory or abusive language or engages in improper conduct after fair warning, will be immediately gavelled out of order and will lose all privileges to address the Committee. 5. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting. 6. Speakers may offer objective 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. Complaints involving staff members must follow administrative channels as outlined in School Committee policy. 7. 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. 8. All matters will be taken under advisement by the School Committee. Committee members will not engage in debate with speakers over issues presented. However, Committee members may choose to comment on issues raised. Administrative staff may be called upon to correct any factual errors in statements made. 9. In addition to the period available at the beginning of each School Committee meeting, the public will be invited to comment on specific issues being discussed by the School Committee at any evening meeting during the Committee's discussion of that issue. The length of public participation or of any individual speaker's comments shall be determined by the Chairperson of the School Committee and that the decision will be strictly adhered to. 	