

South Coast Education Service District

Code: **BDDH**
Adopted: 12/11/01
Readopted: 11/14/06
Reviewed: 12/11/18
Readopted: 2/12/19
Orig. Code(s) BDA-AR

Public Comment at Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites ESD community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the ESD. Members of the public also are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids¹ and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities will be available at no charge to the individual. All auxiliary aids and/or service requests must be made with appropriate advance notice. Should the Board demonstrate such requests would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, an alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Audience

During a session of a Board meeting open to the public, members of the public may be invited to present comments during the designated portion of the agenda. At the discretion of the Board chair, further public comment may be allowed.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request the Board chair, in communication with the superintendent, to consider placing an item on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the Board chair, for consideration at least seven working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Procedures for Public Comment at Meetings

The Board will establish procedures for public comment in open meetings. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public how to effectively participate in Board meetings for the best interests of the individual, the ESD and the patrons. The information will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public Board meeting. The spokesperson for the group shall follow the public comment process as outlined on the public comment card provided at each board meeting.

¹Auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to, such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Brailled materials and large print.

Petitions

Petitions may be accepted at any Board meeting. No action will be taken in response to a petition before the next regular meeting. Petitions will be referred to the superintendent for consideration and recommendation.

Comments Regarding Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of ESD operations, programs and services, but the Board will not hear comments regarding any individual ESD staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate procedures in Board policy KL - Public Complaints for Board consideration of a legitimate complaints-involving a staff member. The association contract governing the employee's rights will be followed. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, their supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 165.535](#)
[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610 to -192.690](#)
[ORS 334.100](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of
1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2017); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017).
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.
Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist., 936F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal 1996)
Leenthal v. Visat Unified Sch. Dist., 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal 1997).
HR 9/28/17 PH