

PUBLIC INVITED

The St. Maries Joint School District Board of Trustees desires citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the schools and so that the Board may have opportunity to hear the expectations and concerns of its patrons.

Any complaint about the District, including instruction, discipline, District personnel policy, procedure, or curriculum, should be referred through proper administrative channels before it is presented to the Board of consideration and action. All complaints should be resolved through proper channels in the following order:

1. Teacher or Staff;
2. Principal or Supervisor;
3. Director or Administrator;
4. Superintendent; then
5. Board of Trustees.

Please also see District Policy 204.11 – Procedures for Processing Citizen Complaints Against Employees or Departments.

NOTICE

Due to their sensitive nature, comments or complaints about personnel or individual students will only be heard in executive session. Additionally, other topics a patron wishes to address may only be appropriate for executive session. In such instances, the Board will determine if the patron’s comments are appropriate for open or executive session and will notify the patron accordingly.

A person who disrupts the educational process or whose presence is detrimental to the morals, health, safety, academic learning, or discipline of the students, including business of the Board of Trustees, or who loiters in schools or on school grounds, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

FUNCTION OF BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting is a meeting held in public view, not a public meeting. In a public meeting, attendees have an expectation to have their views heard. School Board meetings are not discussion forums, but business meetings to conduct the business of the School District. To permit patrons to be heard, and at the same time to conduct its

meetings properly and efficiently, the Board hereby establishes the following procedures by which persons may address the Board:

INPUT PROCEDURES

Persons wishing to make a formal presentation to the Board should follow procedures set out in policy 204.04 – Request to Appear Before the Board, which is available at the District Office and on the District’s website.

Total time allotted for public comment will not exceed one (1) hour. Public participation will be limited to the time allotted on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to five (5) minutes. All speakers will be allowed to speak at least once before a speaker is allowed to address the Board of Trustees a second time. Public comment will be taken from the public on matters scheduled on the agenda.

In the event a large number of the public wish to speak on the same issue or topic, members of the public are encouraged to select a representative(s) to summarize their position. Additionally, the Superintendent or Board Clerk will accept written comments for distribution to the Board.

Written materials for the Board of Trustees must be submitted to the Superintendent or Board Clerk. The written material must include the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting it. A copy of the materials that meet these requirements will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees if received by noon the Thursday preceding the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Materials should not be sent directly to the Board of Trustees. Materials may be presented or mailed to the Superintendent or Board Clerk at 240 S. 11th Street, P. O. Box 384, St. Maries, ID, 83861.

If a topic is being considered by a committee established for that purpose, the Board Chair may refer the public comment to that committee.

Because of the diversity of issues, members of the Board of Trustees may not respond to public comment. Instead, issues may be recorded and referred to the proper staff person for follow-up. The Chair may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, repetitive, or irrelevant. The Board of Trustees as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

If a special meeting has been held to obtain public comment on a specific issue, the Chair of the Board may not recognize speakers wishing to comment on the same topic at a regular meeting of the Board.

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

Policy History:

Reviewed: 12/09/2019
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