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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Foxborough School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Foxborough School Committee desires citizens of the Foxborough Public Schools to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the Foxborough Public Schools business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled Foxborough School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee during the visitor's portion of the agenda. The Chairman shall determine the length of the public participation segment.

2. Speakers will be allowed up to five (5) minutes to present their material. The Chairman may permit extension of this time limit. Prepared written remarks must be presented to the Foxborough School Committee at the time of the presentation so that they can be attached to the minutes of the meeting. Remarks or questions related to an agenda item shall be deferred until that specific agenda item has been taken up.

3. All questions posed to the Foxborough School Committee during the visitor's section that cannot be answered during the meeting will be answered subsequent to the meeting in a timely manner.

4. The Chairman may allow questions from the audience after presentations or discussions on those items listed on the Foxborough School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.

5. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairman may terminate that individual's privilege of address.

6. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairman of the meeting.

7. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 39:23B; 23C

Policy adopted: 3-24-08