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FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH**

Policy Subcommittee Meeting
March 16, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Administration Conference Room
60 South Street

5:30 p.m. Review and Discussion of FPS Policies

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 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 are better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like to hear the wishes and ideas of the Foxborough community on matters within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Matters include the budget for the Foxborough Public Schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational policies of the Foxborough Public Schools.

In order that all members of the Foxborough community who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and the ability of the Committee to conduct the Foxborough Public Schools business in an orderly manner, the following rules are adopted consistent with state and federal free speech laws:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled Foxborough School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives are invited to address the Committee during the Open Public Comment period. The Open Public Comment period shall be prior to discussion of Agenda items, unless the Chair determines that there is a good reason for rearranging the order of the meeting that is unrelated to deterring participation in the Open Public Comment period. The Chair shall determine the length of the public participation segment.
2. During the Open Public Comment period, comments shall concern items that are not on the School Committee agenda which are within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Therefore, any comments involving staff members must concern the educational goals and policies, the budget of the Foxborough Public Schools, or the performance of the Superintendent. Complaints against individual students or personnel not within the School Committee's direct authority are not allowed.
3. Speakers will be allowed up to five (5) minutes to present their material. The Chair may permit extension of time for speakers who require reasonable accommodations based on a speech-related disability or who require language services. Prepared written remarks must be presented to the Foxborough School Committee at the time of the presentation so that they may be attached to the minutes of the meeting at the Committee's discretion. Questions or comments related to an agenda item shall be deferred until that specific agenda item has been taken up.
4. Speakers must first be recognized by the Chair. Speakers will then begin their remarks by stating their name, address, residence, and affiliation. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.
5. Large groups addressing the same topic are encouraged to consolidate their remarks and/or select a spokesperson during the Open Public Comment period.
6. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner. The Chair of the meeting may terminate the remarks of speakers who have been recognized to speak, except that the Chair reserves the right to terminate speech that is constitutionally protected because it constitutes threats, comments likely to provoke a violent reaction, comments found by a court of law to be defamatory, and/or obscene speech. Verbal comments will also be curtailed on the time limits of this policy and/or to the extent they exceed the scope of the School Committee's authority.
7. All questions posed to the Foxborough School Committee during the Open Public Comment period that cannot be answered during the meeting will be answered subsequent to the meeting in a timely manner.
8. The Chair may allow questions from the audience after presentations or discussions on those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.