

APPROVED at SC meeting on 3/9/22 and in effect as of 3/10/22

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In accordance with policy *BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings*, the Norwood Public School Committee desires individuals 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 public comment.

Public forum is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee; rather it is an opportunity for individuals to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

Public Comment Under Hybrid Meeting Format

Under a hybrid meeting format, the Norwood School Committee will have two ways in which the public can access public forum:

1. Remote participation. Call the Superintendent's Office at 781.762.6804 by noon on the day of the meeting to register and receive a meeting link that will be accessible for remote public forum only.
2. In-Person participation. Participants choosing this option can also call the Superintendent's Office at 781.762.6804 by noon on the day of the meeting to register in advance to speak in person, or they can attend the meeting and register upon arrival. Public Comment is first come first served therefore pre-registration is encouraged.

During the meeting, all public forum participants, either online or in person will be called upon by the Chair, in chronological order based on their sign up.

Participants joining online will be muted until called upon by the Chair. While awaiting their turn to speak, participants should rely on the Google Meet audio to hear their name be called, as there may be a slight delay in the livestream or broadcast. When your name is called, if you are watching the meeting via livestream or broadcast, please mute your computer or television in order to prevent an echo from being broadcast into the virtual meeting chambers. You will have up to three minutes to speak to the School Committee.

Once your comment is completed, please mute yourself again. In the event you forget to mute yourself or do not stop at the end of your three minutes, you will be muted by the Chair.

After the public forum period is closed, online participants will be exited from the meeting but will continue to have live access to the meeting via NCM on cable and online as it is live-streamed. For the cable channel guide and online link, please visit: <https://norwoodcommunitymedia.org/>.

In order to emulate in-person meeting procedures, please note the following important information, as established by School Committee policy:

1. All speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.
2. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.
3. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.
4. The entire length of the public forum period at a School Committee business meeting is a maximum of thirty minutes. At the end of thirty minutes, the public forum portion is declared closed. Participants who didn't have the opportunity to speak, based on the time they registered or signed in, can register for, or attend in person, the public forum at the subsequent meeting, and/or, they can email the members of the School Committee directly and share their comments. Contact information for the School Committee can be found [here](#).