

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at board meetings. To allow for public participation, two opportunities are reserved for public comment generally occurring at the beginning and at the end of each meeting. Anyone wishing to comment at the meeting is expected to extend a courtesy to the Board by contacting the Superintendent of Schools in advance of the meeting to discuss the topic of the comment. New York State Education Law does not require the Board to extend the opportunity for public comment. The Board reserves the right to limit the total time for public comment to, at the beginning and end of each meeting, to 30 minutes. The period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.

Presentation should be as brief as possible. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than five minutes unless otherwise authorized by the Board President. Speakers, after being recognized by the Board President and properly identifying themselves by stating their names and addresses may comment on matters related to any agenda item. The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent of Schools during regular business hours. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

Persons making presentations at a Board meeting will address remarks to the Board President and may direct questions or comments to Board members or other district officials only upon the approval of the President. Board members and the Superintendent shall have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board. During the rest of the meeting, participation is limited to members of the Board, the Clerk, and the Superintendent. However, the President of the Board may call upon others, such as administrators, to participate. Any persons other than those heretofore mentioned wishing to participate must be recognized by the presiding officer of the Board of Education.

In addition, there are other ways to make opinions known to Board members and district personnel. The School Board asks that persons first contact the staff member, teacher, supervisor, or administrator closest to the issue. However, the Board welcomes communication by mail on any issue of concern. Correspondence may be addressed to: Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School Board of Education; 155 Washington Avenue; Cobleskill, NY 12043. Residents may also telephone specific district personnel.

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action. Persons wishing to have matters included on the agenda shall contact the Superintendent in accordance with Policy 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy.

Cross-ref: 1400, Public Complaints  
2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

First reading by the Board of Education: 06/11/2007

Second reading by the Board of Education: 06/21/2007

**Adopted by the Board of Education: 06/21/2007**