

Section: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Policy Title: **Audience Participation in Board Meetings**

The Kelso School Board is committed to gaining a full understanding of the issues that come before it. In order to attain a level of understanding that provides making the best decisions, the Board will hear in public Board meetings comments from those attending its meetings. The Board will entertain comments at the beginning of regular meetings and periodically during its meetings. The Board agenda shall provide for the following communications and audience participation:

1. Written communications shall include letters or published materials received by the Superintendent or members of his/her staff, and which he/she deems informative or in need of Board action.
2. Scheduled communications shall include visitors who have previously arranged with the Superintendent to appear before the Board. General comments, either oral or written, will come at the beginning of the regular meeting under the agenda item designated Public Comments. Members of the audience wishing to address the Board must provide their name, address and affiliation, if any, prior to addressing the board. Speakers may not discuss school district personnel. Not more than three (3) minutes may be allotted to each speaker and no more than ten (10) minutes to the subject under discussion except with the unanimous consent of the Board. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to thirty (30) minutes.
3. During Unfinished Business and New Business members of the audience may comment on "Action" items listed on the agenda and/or board policies presented for the first or second reading. Questions or comments are to be directed to the Board of Directors as a whole and may not be put to any individual member of the Board or the administrative staff. "Action" items mean the Board expects that a motion would be made and the Board would discuss the merits of the issue before it. After presentations by school staff, district staff or scheduled presenters, and before a motion is heard, the President may call for any oral or written comments from the audience. Members of the audience who are Kelso School District residents who wish to address the Board may only speak to that specific agenda item before the Board and have two (2) minutes to ask clarifying questions, state an opinion, or add information. A total of ten (10) minutes on each agenda item scheduled for action may be used for public comment and/or questions. It is the prerogative of the Board President to recognize people requesting oral comments to the Board.
4. It shall not be permissible to orally present or discuss complaints against individual employees of Kelso School District at any Board of Directors meeting. Such charges or complaints shall be presented to the Board of Directors, in writing, and shall be signed by the person or persons making the charge or complaint. Executive session may be granted for a hearing of charges against individuals, whether students or employees.

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5. No person less than eighteen (18) years of age may address the Board of Directors in meeting unless accompanied by his/her parent(s)/ guardian(s) or teacher, except with unanimous consent of the Board of Directors.
6. Boisterous conduct shall not be permitted at any meeting of the Board of Directors, nor will any defamatory or abusive remarks be tolerated. The President of the Board may terminate the address of any speaker who violates this policy.
7. Individuals with disabilities who may need a modification to participate in a meeting should contact the superintendent's office no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so that arrangements for the modification can be made.
8. Board work sessions are intended to give board members an opportunity to review topics requiring extended discussion. At the conclusion of board discussion of an item, the board chair may call on audience members for comments (time permitting). Members of the audience who are Kelso School District residents who wish to address the Board may only speak to that specific work session agenda item before the Board and have two (2) minutes to ask clarifying questions, state an opinion, or add information. A total of ten (10) minutes on each agenda item may be used for public comment and/or questions. It is the prerogative of the Board President to recognize people requesting oral comments to the Board.

Legal References: RCW 42.30.030 Meetings declared open and public
 RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions—Procedures

 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

Adopted: _____ January 23, 2006 _____