

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY

School Committee Public Communications

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Keeping open communication with the public is critical to the proper functioning of the School Committee

All communications received and addressed to a School Committee member or the committee as a whole are subject to the MA Open Meeting Law, MA Public Records Law and the Federal Freedom of Information Act . Best practice for communicating to the School Committee is to send the communication to all members.

Topics of comments 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. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.

Regularly scheduled School Committee meeting agendas will list “Communications” as an agenda item. The communications agenda item will not include anonymous letters addressed to the School Committee; these will be presented to the School Committee for information only.

The School Committee will not read a communication into the record on behalf of an individual or group. The School Committee, instead, supports public participation under policy BEDH Citizens’ Forum Agenda Item.

REF: MGL c.66  
MGL c.4 § 7 cl.26  
MGL c.66A  
MGL c.30A, § 19(a)  
5 USC § 552;

Adopted  
April 14, 2021