

**Cross Reference:** Board Policy 187

**Legal Reference:** Wisconsin Statute 120.43

**File Code: 187**

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRENTICE**

**Date Adopted:** April 19, 1993

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**File Sector:** Board Operations

**Policy Title:** Operating Procedures

**Subtitle:** Public Participation at Board Meetings

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Prentice School District Board are held in public in accordance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, they are not public meetings. There is a clear difference between the two. Citizens of the Prentice School District are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of the district. In accordance with this philosophy, all meetings of the Prentice Board are held in rooms and buildings that are reasonably accessible to the public. Public access and monitoring of any meetings may be accomplished through only livestream and/or virtual or remote conferencing, in emergency situations as determined by the Board President. Agendas shall be made available and adequate seating provided for visitors.

The Open Meetings Law encourages public awareness of, and attendance at, school board meetings. It does not require the board to allow active public participation in board meetings.

In the spirit of encouraging a public voice, and of soliciting specific information to allow development of a more informed understanding of public concerns, the Prentice Board includes the item "Community Input" on its regular meeting agendas. During "Community Input" the board will accept constructive comments from the public under the following participation rules:

1. Visitors requesting to be heard must be recognized by the presiding officer, must identify themselves by name, and indicate whether they are district residents and if they represent themselves or a group.
2. Recognized speakers may address such items of school operation and programs as may concern them, so long as the comments are not illegal or defamatory.
3. The Board will not hear oral complaints about school personnel during "Community Input," nor of persons connected with the school district. Complaints involving legitimate problems with school personnel shall follow district policy "Areas of Responsibility." When personnel complaints arrive at the board level they should be in written form and submitted to the board for review and possible action.
4. To minimize the possibility of the Board's making ill-advised, illegal, or improper decisions due to hasty action in the absence of adequate information and study, the Board will take citizen complaints, viewpoints, opinions, questions, and problems under advisement and issue responses after due deliberation, typically in writing through the district administrator's office with copies to each Board member. Therefore, the Board reserves the right to research and review all items brought to its attention during "Community Input."
5. Generally, each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to state their concerns. A total not to exceed twenty (20) minutes shall be allowed for "Community Input." More individual and total time may be allowed at the discretion of the board president. The Board president shall be responsible for maintaining an orderly process of public comment. The Board reserves the right to terminate any person's time if they become abusive or demand immediate action by the Board. The Board president may rule such persons "out of order."