



WELCOME TO THE MEETING

Board of Education
School District of Colby

"The Board ... wishes to provide an avenue for any citizen to express interest in and concerns for the school. Accordingly, the public is cordially invited to attend all sessions of the Board. However, the Board reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters as are properly considered in closed session." [Excerpted from Board of Education Policy #187 – Public Participation at Board Meetings]

Citizen input is critical to sound, democratic decision-making, and the Board values civic involvement in its schools. The following policies have been established to ensure civility and legality in the public's involvement with Board of Education meetings.

1. The agenda of the Board is posted prior to each meeting and a copy is available for those who observe the Board conducting its business meeting.
2. Immediately following the notice of posting of the meeting, the Board President will advise individuals or groups in attendance who wish to address the Board on a particular topic on the agenda that the speaker will be recognized to speak on the identified topic as each topic appears on the agenda.
3. The speaker may be asked to provide his/her identity and place of residence; unless an extension of time is granted, a speaker will be limited to five minutes and remarks will be limited to the issue at hand. Members of the public may speak once on any given issue.
4. The Board President reserves the right to limit the number of individuals or groups who will be recognized to speak on one particular issue, but will give any resident citizen with new and pertinent information to the issue an opportunity to address the Board.
5. **REQUESTING TO PLACE AN ISSUE ON THE AGENDA:** Persons having business for Board consideration may present the topic to be discussed in writing to the Superintendent one week prior to a scheduled meeting so that proper information is available for discussion. The public is reminded that the Board's function is to deliberate policy issues. Personal complaints about school personnel or any person connected with the school system may be heard in closed session only.
6. Once Board discussion has begun, public involvement will be limited to brief responses to questions posed by Board members themselves. The Board members may not question members of the public once Board discussion of an issue is begun, if a majority of Board members present object.
7. The Board vests in its President the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when these remarks do not adhere to the rules outlined above.

NOTES TO ASSIST VISITORS TO MEETINGS

Much of the consideration of issues is accomplished in committees of the Board, so the discussion held at the monthly meeting may seem abbreviated since in-depth consideration of issues often has occurred in committee sessions previously.

The *consent agenda* may be used to address routine issues that occur frequently, where there may be little deliberation necessary for a decision whose conclusion may be foregone, for items for which Board action is essentially pro forma and to act quickly on items that have already received committee recommendations.

Changes in policy require two successive majority votes before a new policy is adopted or a change is enacted. The notation "First Reading" will signal that a decision on the item will not be final notwithstanding a positive vote of the Board members present at the meeting.

Closed Session: Items dealing with specific evaluations of personnel, individual student records/discipline, collective bargaining, purchase of public properties, investing of public funds, and all legal action are deliberated by the Board in closed session. After reconvening in open session, the Board may take action publicly on any issues it considered in the closed session announced at the meeting.

All actions and deliberations of the Colby Board of Education are conducted in accordance with the legal authority granted by State of Wisconsin Statutes and that prescribed by the United States Constitution.