



Essexville-Hampton Public Schools

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BUILDING CLOSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We recognize the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on district matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the committee shall provide a period for public participation at every meeting and publish rules to govern such participation. The chairperson of each committee meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the committee for its conduct.

The purpose of the building closure advisory committee is to study the best scenario for the closure of an elementary building. A recommendation will be made to the board of education by the committee so the board can make an informed decision regarding the closure of a building. This committee is not a budget committee, and will not be examining general budget reductions. Suggestions or comments regarding budget reductions should be directed to the superintendent for consideration.

The chairperson shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business.
- B. Participants must be recognized by the chairperson and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name and address.
- C. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- D. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- E. Participants shall direct all comments to the committee and not to staff or other participants.
- F. All statements shall be directed to the chairperson; no person may address or question committee members individually.

The chairperson may:

1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 3. request the assistant of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 4. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.
- G. Tape or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recording should contact the assistant superintendent prior to the committee meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
1. No obstructions are created between the committee and the audience.
 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the committee is in session.
 3. No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the committee or members of the audience while the committee is in session.