



SALEM•KEIZER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Public Comment Proposal
for In-person Board Meetings**

July 13, 2021



Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings

- Recent focus on written comments, rarely shared during board meetings, opened the door for broader public voice on agenda items in advance of a board vote.
- Move to in-person meetings will continue to include the practice of summarizing and sharing written comment and will include some call-in and in-person comment.



In-person & Online Opportunity

New law (HB 2560) passed this session, effective Jan 1, 2022, states that public bodies must allow reasonable opportunity for public comment. SKPS will apply this law to its public comment format. HB 2560 states:

(3) All meetings held by a governing body of a public body, excluding executive sessions, must provide to members of the general public, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to:

(a) Access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means;

(b) If in-person oral testimony is allowed, submit during the meeting oral testimony by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means; and

(c) If in-person written testimony is allowed, submit written testimony, including by electronic mail or other electronic means, so the **governing body is able to consider the submitted testimony in a timely manner.**

<https://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2021/HB2560/>



Public Comment Proposal – How It Works

- Public comment opens on Friday when the agenda is posted (about 5 p.m.) and closes on Monday at noon.
- Board will take comment in person, written, or by phone call, and all forms adhere to the sign-up by Monday at noon.
- In-person and call-in comment for action and reading items listed on agenda.
- Written comment is welcome on other agenda items and non-agenda items of interest to the public.
- District staff will share entirety of written comment to board members on Monday afternoon. Staff will read summary during public comment at board meeting.



Public Comment Proposal – How It Works

- Chair will designate 30 minutes total time for public comment and allow each speaker two minutes, categorized as follows:
 - 14 minutes of in-person comment (up to seven people)
 - 14 minutes of call-in comment (up to seven people)
 - Two minutes to hear a summary of written public comment
- Additional time allowed to interpret oral comments into English.