

Policies

Westerly Public Schools

No. 1032

Westerly School Committee Public Forums Page 1 of 1

The Westerly School Committee affords the widest latitude to the citizens of the district in the exercise of the right of free speech to present to the committee matters of public concern. A citizen will be permitted to present his/her comments or questions in reference to a matter not identified for review by the Committee in any other agenda item to the committee during the portion of the agenda noted as "Public Forum". It should be noted that the right or privilege of free speech is not absolute at all times and under all circumstances. The exercise of a citizen's right carries with it a commensurate responsibility. Each citizen who makes public statements has the following responsibilities:

1. State their name for the record.
2. Be accurate.
3. Present facts and not gossip or rumors.
4. Present information based upon personal knowledge, not hearsay.
5. Be personally familiar with the texts, teaching aids or class content in the Westerly School District upon which a citizen comments.
6. Limit comments to a time frame that will not be disruptive to the committee's conducting of a scheduled, itemized agenda meeting. In that regard, the Committee chairperson may limit the time for a public forum presentation.
7. Do not use this as an opportunity to criticize by name a member of the School Committee or an employee of the School District.
8. Make his/her remarks in a courteous manner.
9. Be mindful of the time of their remarks in order to give others an opportunity to speak.
10. Speak only to School Committee and no one else.
11. After public speaks, the chair will provide School Committee members the opportunity to respond to remarks made.
12. Conversation or dialogue with speakers will not be permitted.

Adopted: March 4, 2009

Revised: July 13, 2011