

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school system. Meetings of the Board are open to the public. Although Board meetings are not public forums, the Board will provide appropriate opportunities for citizens and employees to express opinions and concerns related to the matters under consideration by the Board within the guidelines set forth in Board policy BEDH "Public Participation at Board Meetings." Please be aware of the following ground rules from our policy:

- Citizens and employees of the school unit are welcome to participate as provided in this policy. Others may be recognized to speak at the Chair's discretion. Individual employees and/or employee groups will not be permitted to discuss the matters for which complaint or grievance procedures are provided.
- The Chair may limit the time given to comments on a particular topic as well as the time any individual may speak.
- In the event of a sizable audience, the Chair may require persons interested in speaking to so indicate by signing up to speak, so they may be called on in a fair and efficient manner.
- Public comment shall be limited to the item(s) on the agenda. Public participation may be permitted prior to the Board action on agenda items.
- Members of the public may address the Board within the guidelines provided in this policy. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining proper order and compliance with these guidelines.
- All speakers are to address the board Chair and direct questions or comments to Board members or the Superintendent only upon approval of the Chair. Requests for information or concerns that require further research may be referred to the Superintendent to be addressed at a later time.
- Members of the Board and the Superintendent may ask questions of any person who addresses the Board but are expected to refrain from arguing or debating issues. Questions must be addressed through the Chair.
- No complaints or allegations will be allowed at Board meetings concerning any person employed by the school system or against particular students. Personal matters or complaints concerning student or staff issues will not be considered in a public meeting but will be referred through established policies and procedures.
- In order to make efficient use of meeting time, the Board discourages duplication or repetition of comments to the Board. The Board requests that Groups or organizations be represented by designated spokespersons.
- The Chair has the authority to stop any presentation that violates these guidelines or the privacy rights of others.
- Persons who disrupt the meeting may be asked to leave, and the Chair may request law enforcement assistance as necessary to restore order.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Parents, students, or other citizens with complaints or concerns regarding any aspect of the MSAD 59 school district or an employee thereof shall be encouraged to seek a resolution at the lowest possible level. The only exceptions are complaints that concern School Board actions or operations. Such complaints should be addressed by the Board Chair. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the lowest level, the person initiating the complaint may appeal the decision to the next level. If the complaint cannot be resolved at any lower level, it may be appealed to the Superintendent. If the complaint remains unresolved at the Superintendent's level, the person making the complaint may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of the next regular School Board meeting. At all levels of the complaint process, school employees are required to inform the person making the complaint of his/her right to appeal the decision to the next level. This policy shall not be utilized by employees for matters or grievances relating to any term or condition of their employment. Such matters shall be addressed through established channels for grievances.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



Mission Statement

It is the responsibility of MSAD #59 to provide all students with opportunities to acquire a rigorous and relevant education in order to become successful and productive learners, workers, and citizens in a rapidly changing world.

*486 Main Street
Madison, ME 04950
(207) 696-3323
<https://www.sad59.k12.me.us/>*

WELCOME

On behalf of the MSAD 59 School Board, I wish to welcome you to our meeting. We appreciate visitors from the public and trust your attendance will be beneficial to both of us. We feel it is very important for interested persons to know about the workings of our school system and for us to be aware of what is important to the community. You are invited to participate in the meeting in accordance with the policies and rules established by this board.

~Bruce Thebarge, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS & TERM

Steve Austin	2022	Jasmyn Horton	2024
Tammy Carrier	2023	James (Gabe) Robbins	2022
Robert Dimock*	2023	Bruce Thebarge**	2024
Carla Franzose	2024		

***Chair
Vice Chair

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of School	Bonnie Levesque
Curriculum Coordinator	Kathy Bertini
Principal, Madison Elementary School	Scott Mitchell
Principal, Madison Jr. High School	Ryan Arnold
Principal, Madison High School	Christopher LeBlanc
Special Services Director	Nicole Richardson
Transportation & Grounds Director	Christopher Roy

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

In accordance with applicable Federal and/or State laws and regulations, it is the policy of MSAD 59 to prohibit discrimination against and harassment of employees, candidates for employment, students and others with rights to admission or access to school programs, activities, or premises on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. For the purpose of this policy, “sexual orientation” means a person’s actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression. MSAD 59’s Affirmative Action Plan is on file at the Superintendent’s Office. The Affirmative Action Officer is Brandy Hill, she can be reached at (207) 696-3381.

SCHOOL BOARD COMPLAINT POLICY

Parents, students, or other citizens with complaints or concerns regarding any aspect of the school system or a school employee shall be encouraged to seek a resolution at the lowest possible level. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the lowest level, the person initiating the complaint may appeal to the next level. If the complaint cannot be resolved at any lower level, it may be appealed to the Superintendent. If the complaint remains unresolved at the Superintendent’s level, the person making the complaint may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of the next regular School Board meeting. The Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chair, shall determine whether the complaint should be placed on the agenda.

SCHOOL BOARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Maine law charges school boards with the responsibility to adopt policies that govern the school; provide for the management of the school property; and operate a school or provide for students to participate in PreK– grade 12 elsewhere as authorized by statute.

The board concerns itself primarily with board questions of policy rather than with administrative details. This is done essentially by selecting a superintendent and providing him/her with authority and direction. It is not the duty of the board to operate the school but to see that they are well operated. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the superintendent and his/her staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system.

Members of the board have authority only when acting as a board officially and legally in session, meaning when a quorum of members is present. The board shall not be bound in any way by an action or statement of an individual member except when such statement or action has been authorized by an official vote of the board.

SUPERINTENDENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The position of Superintendent of Schools is created and required by state law to provide each school board and district with educational leadership. Authority by statute is given to the superintendent to carry out the responsibilities assigned to him/her in relation to the roles assigned to school boards.

BOARD MEETING

The MSAD 59 School Board generally meets at 6 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at Madison High School. The agenda is posted at least four days in advance of each meeting on the MSAD 59 website (www.sad59.k12.me.us) and is also available at the Superintendent’s Office, in each school, and in the town office.

STANDARD BOARD AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Attendance/Roll Call
- 3) Adjustments to the Agenda
- 4) Consideration of Minutes
- 5) Board Chair’s Report
- 6) Calendar/Announcements
- 7) Superintendent’s Report
- 8) Old Business
- 9) New Business
- 10) Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Maine’s Freedom of Access (“Right-to-Know”) law, Board meetings are held in public. The Board may go into executive session, upon vote of 3/5 of the members present and voting, for consideration of certain matters specified in law (e.g., personnel, student suspension/expulsion, contracts to be negotiated, collective bargaining, consultations with an attorney concerning legal rights, pending litigation, and settlement offers). No final action may be taken in executive sessions.