

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	<b>Public Participation at Board Meetings</b>	<b>Policy # 7300C</b>
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2 I. Statement of Purpose  
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4 The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District desires members of the  
5 general public to attend Regional Governing Board [hereinafter, RGB] and Committee  
6 meetings to become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the school and  
7 the School Board. The Regional Governing Board members desire to have an opportunity  
8 to hear public comments(s) on posted agenda items and ideas of the public for future  
9 agenda items. All meetings of the Board and its committees are meetings held in the  
10 public following the Vermont Open Meeting Law. The RGB reserves the right to meet  
11 in non-public session to discuss such matters as are properly considered executive session  
12 items in accordance with VSA Title 1 Section 313. The RGB reserves the right to  
13 eliminate public comment agenda items when a meeting is posted as executive session  
14 only. The RGB also reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time by  
15 majority vote.  
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17 II. Procedures  
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19 In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the RGB may be heard and, at  
20 the same time, conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the RGB adopts the  
21 following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:  
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- 23 A. For each meeting, an agenda item entitled Public Comments shall provide  
24 residents opportunities to address the RGB. Public Comments are comments  
25 made by the public about items that are on the meeting’s agenda or other items of  
26 public concern subject to the limitations stated below. (See III(C) below.) The  
27 speaker at public comments should make sure to clarify any actions he/she wish  
28 the RGB to make, if any.
- 29 B. The Chair of the RGB shall facilitate public comments, guiding the process for  
30 relevancy and time, to allow RGB members sufficient time to conduct warned  
31 matters.
- 32 C. Non-residents wishing to speak in Public Comments may address the RGB if  
33 time permits and at the discretion of the RGB.
- 34 D. The RGB vests in its Chairperson, or other presiding officer, authority to  
35 terminate the remarks of any individual or close public comments when  
36 comments do not adhere to the rules for content or time limitation.  
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38 III. Public Comments  
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- 40 A. Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the  
41 group, if any, represented. The presentation should be as brief as possible.
- 42 B. Written remarks requiring board action regarding posted agenda items are  
43 accepted and will be shared publicly per Policy No. 7192C, “Correspondence to  
44 the Board.” Those giving public comment are encouraged to share supportive

45 remarks and may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and  
 46 programs as concern them.  
 47 C. The RGB shall not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints  
 48 against any person connected with the school system during Public Comments,  
 49 directing individuals with such concerns to follow adopted policy. (See Policy #  
 50 1025C “Public Complaints about Personnel and #7192C “Correspondence to the  
 51 Board”.)  
 52 D. If questions are directed to RGB members on topics that have not been posted  
 53 as agenda items by the Regional Technical School District, answers shall be  
 54 deferred pending consideration by the full RGB and administrators.  
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56 *Legal References: 1 V.S.A. §§310 – 313 Vermont Open Meetings Law*

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 58 *Cross References: Policy #1025C “Public Complaints about Personnel”*  
 59 *Policy #7192C “Correspondence to the Board”*  
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	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Review Date	Replaces Policy	Administrative procedures completed
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	1/12/15	6/15/15			

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