

OPINION

Emergency doesn't mean the public loses its voice

Dave Kimble, South Kitsap Published 11:23 a.m. PT May 3, 2020 | Updated 11:39 a.m. PT May 3, 2020

South Kitsap School District excels in collecting property taxes, but not so much about demonstrating open, transparent, and gaining community confidence. They now choose to shut us out by denying any public comments during board meetings held via video conferencing. They invented a [resolution](https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/sksdwa/Board.nsf/files/BNJT8H762248/%24file/Resolution%201320%20Emergency%20Suspension%20of%20Policy.pdf) (<https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/sksdwa/Board.nsf/files/BNJT8H762248/%24file/Resolution%201320%20Emergency%20Suspension%20of%20Policy.pdf>) to deny us our rights to make public comments during board meetings.

They assume that the COVID-19 emergency means they don't have to listen to us.

Governor Inslee stated in recent proclamation [20-28 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-28%20-%20COVID-19%20Open%20Govt%20Laws%20Waivers%20%28tmp%291.pdf) that (<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-28%20-%20COVID-19%20Open%20Govt%20Laws%20Waivers%20%28tmp%291.pdf>): "There are a plethora of options to keep the public engaged and able to participate in public meetings that are held electronically."

SKSD continues demonstrating epic failures in gaining trust, transparency, and community confidence. Please send your emails to SKSD Board President Eric Gattenby, gattenby@skschools.org, and Superintendent Tim Winter, winter@skschools.org. Let them know your feelings and thoughts on this policy.

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