

# SKSD BOARD EXECUTES AN "ABOUT FACE"

The SKSD Board will now read public comments during public comments during the public comment portion of school board meetings.



SKSD Board of Directors will now allow community members to submit comments/concerns to be read aloud during SKSD Board Meetings even if the commenter(s) are not present at the board meeting or attending via Zoom. Four board members support this change, one board member does not. This change in policy for the board was in keeping with the tenements and purpose of the newly written Open Public Meetings Act. They felt it was 'an accommodation' to allow submitters comments to be read by the board chair during school board meetings at the public comment part of the board meetings. (Go to end of this posting to view the nine video extracts taken from the September 7, 2022 SKSD Board Meeting)

As I recall, there was "some reluctance" to 'allow' speakers to speak at the regular meeting during public comment period held during the regular board meeting on 08-03-22 that was held immediately after testimony and public comments were taken (as a matter of the legal requirement) during the SKSD Budget Hearing. It's notable that one of the board members stated that no one had submitted a request to speak during public comment during the regular board meeting that followed the meeting where testimony was taken during the Budget Hearing meeting.

As a matter of record, there was no place in the 'instructions posted by the District' that suggested anyone had to register 'twice' in order to also give public comments during the second and regular school board meeting. Fast forward for a moment: At the current board meeting held on 09-07-22 the board voted to permit written comments and questions sent in by "any" constituents (or persons) that have those questions read aloud during the meeting(s) by the Board Chair. This was/is a separate problem that has yet to be adequately addressed by this school board.

### **SKSD BOARD SETS NEW POLICY PRECEDENT.**

As of the regular school board meeting held on 09-07-22, the board of directors will now allow community members to submit comments/concerns to be read aloud during board meetings "even if the commenter(s) are not present at the board meeting, or attending such meetings via Zoom".

The majority of the board felt that it was 'an accommodation' to allow submitters comments to be read by the board chair, aloud, during school board meetings at the public comment part of the board meetings. A comment was made by the Board Chair (Mr. Wilson) that he believed that reading the comments when the person(s) submitting the comments was proper given that the comment writers were not present for the meeting and perhaps could not access Zoom if they needed that accommodation.

Three other board directors also agreed that it was proper to allow the submitted comments to be read, provided they had been submitted in timely manner (my words here) at no later than the prescribed time ((before but not later than 3:00 pm on the same day of the board meeting. One director clearly states and is recorded on video that he felt a bad precedent was being set by allowing this, further stating that public comments were to be given in person or via zoom and not meant to be read by school board during any board meeting.

## Conclusion.

The Chair ruled that comments were proper to be read aloud even if the submitter was not present or attending on Zoom during the meeting. He came to this conclusion after properly polling all board directors. The only director who disagreed was J. Berg. There was consensus among the board that reading public comments submitted by the deadline set on meeting days provided the submitted was not able to attend the meeting in person or via zoom, then comments should be read during the public comment portion of the board meeting. In this case it was the board meeting held in person on 09-07-22

So there you have it! If you cannot attend any future board meeting in person, cannot attend via Zoom, you can now email your comments/questions into the school board at the prescribed email address and/or to your favorite board member or all of them at the prescribed time (no later than 3:00 p.m.) on the same day of the board meeting (or before) and the board chair (or assigns) will read your comments and questions during the public comment portion of that meeting. It appears that the SKSD Board of Directors is one step closer to being in full compliance with our Washington State Open Public Meetings Act laws.

### VIDEO SNIP EXTRACTS FROM SKSD 09-07-22 BOARD MEETING

- Video Snip 1: J. Berg First Comment: [https://youtu.be/k\\_TrPXFeUk8](https://youtu.be/k_TrPXFeUk8)
- Video Snip 2: T. Winter Clarification Comment: <https://youtu.be/pY0errfJg5g>
- Video Snip 3: J. Berg Second Comment: <https://youtu.be/-kBTO9AxbFQ>
- Video Snip 4: B. Pickard Comment: <https://youtu.be/-k0bAyTZ7Aw>
- Video Snip 5: J. Wilson Comment: <https://youtu.be/R802O2qmvvs>
- Video Snip 6: K. Espy Comment: [https://youtu.be/NJG\\_BKMA0dY](https://youtu.be/NJG_BKMA0dY)
- Video Snip 7: J. Daily Comment: [https://youtu.be/qaMg\\_XS19kY](https://youtu.be/qaMg_XS19kY)
- Video Snip 8: J. Wilson Comment: <https://youtu.be/u74OU6ZliKI>
- Video Snip 9: J. Wilson Approval Comment: <https://youtu.be/u2XsdD4SrO4>

Good policy setting is not always the best reward!



Wilson Pickard



Daily Espy



Berg