

District 518 School Board Listening Session

District 518 School Board will be holding a public Listening Session on Monday, November 20 from 7pm – 8:30pm. The Listening Session will take place at Worthington High School in the Band Room.

The purpose of the listening session is to gather thoughts, concerns, feedback, and other input from our ISD 518 community regarding draft policy 606.1. The purpose of proposed policy 606.1 is to provide direction in handling questioned materials and potentially controversial issues within our schools. The draft policy can be found on the school district's webpage www.isd518.net. Board members and the Superintendent value public input in the deliberations and decisions of school district matters.

At listening sessions, Board members, Superintendent, or other members of the school district administration may ask clarifying questions or seek additional information, but they will not make decisions.

The request form to fill out with your intent to speak will be included on the district's website for you to fill out and submit. You are also welcome to fill out the form the night of the listening session. If no speakers submit a request to speak by the beginning of the listening session, the session will be adjourned. The citizens requesting time to speak is not a time to speak to the community or to the audience.

The School Board Chair will recognize one speaker at a time in the order the requests were received. In addition, the School Board Chair will also prioritize speakers in the following order:

- 1) Students
- 2) Parents/Guardians of students
- 3) District residents
- 4) District employees
- 5) All others

If any person who does not get a chance to speak or cannot attend the meeting is encouraged to submit written comments to the School Board. Email addresses for our School Board members are listed on the district's website.

The School Board Chair will identify the individuals who submitted a request to speak at the listening session. One person at a time will speak so everyone can hear. Time is limited, so if you are coming as a group, please designate one spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group. A maximum amount of time per participant will be set by the board chair dependent on the number of individuals signed up to speak.

In the event that an individual chooses to speak to the Board out of order or interrupts a speaker who has been recognized by the Chair, the School Board Chair will rule the speaker out of order and remind participants of the procedures to be recognized before speaking.

The following conduct is prohibited during a public School Board meeting, including during the Listening Session:

- Speakers may not discuss or disclose any private educational data on a current or former student or staff as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.32. As a result, speakers may not identify any current or former student or staff during the Listening Session. The only exception is that a parent who is speaking may choose to discuss private educational data on his or her own child.
- Speakers may not make allegations, charges, or complaints against any student or employee (at all levels). If a person wishes to make an allegation or to file a charge or complaint against a student or employee, the person should make the allegation, charge, or complaint to the Superintendent in writing or in a private meeting, or to the individual designated in District policy to receive the allegation, charge, or complaint.
- Speakers may not make comments or gestures that are threatening, profane, lewd, vulgar, obscene, harassing, or abusive.
- Speakers may not make personal attacks against others, including, but not limited to, any student, parent, community member, school employee at any level, or School Board members.
- Speakers may not make any comments that would violate federal or state law, including laws protecting the privacy rights of an individual.

Members of the public may not engage in conduct that materially and substantially disrupts any part of a School Board meeting, or that otherwise impedes the School Board's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient fashion. The following are examples of such conduct that impedes the School Board's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient fashion:

- Making comments that incite violence;
- Making comments that reasonably instill fear;
- Interrupting a speaker who has been recognized by the School Board Chair;
- Making comments from the audience when the person making comments has not been recognized by the School Board Chair;
- Interrupting the School Board Chair or any other School Board member or school official who is speaking;
- Holding up a sign or displaying a banner, regardless of the content of the sign or banner;
- Clapping, cheering, booing, vocalizing approval, or vocalizing disapproval for a speaker during the speaker's presentation, unless a School Board member or school official is presenting an award to a person or is describing an honor or award that a person received;
- Addressing the audience rather than the School Board;
- Violating any law or District policy.

If a speaker violates any of the established procedures or engages in any prohibited conduct, the Board Chair will rule the speaker out of order.

- If the speaker is presenting to the School Board, the Board Chair may require the speaker to immediately end their presentation.
- If repeated disruptions occur during the Listening Session, the School Board Chair may call a recess and order that the room be cleared until the meeting resumes.
- If repeated disruptions occur, any School Board member in attendance has the right to end the meeting.

Just a reminder that the meeting will end at 8:30pm. We appreciate any and all feedback on issues of concern.