

# Desert Sky Montessori

Code: BDDH  
Adopted: 4/19/23

## Public Comment at Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites school community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without public comment.

Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings and submit written comments to the Board. Individuals requesting assistance, aids or accommodations are encouraged to notify the public charter school at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with the request, consistent with Board policy BD/BDA – Board Meetings.

### Procedures for Oral Public Comment

The Board requests that a public comment add information or a perspective that has not already been mentioned previously and that the patron refrains from repeating a similar point. The Board establishes the following procedures for public comment at Board meetings held in open session. The information will be accessible and available to all patrons accessing or attending such a Board meeting.

1. Public comment is limited to its designated place on the agenda and while time allows.
2. If an opportunity is provided by the Board during a meeting open to the public, a person wishing to publicly comment will sign in on the public comment sheet provided prior to the Board meeting. Those attending virtually who wish to provide public comment should notify the Board chair by submitting an email to the Board Chair as directed prior to the start of the meeting. <sup>1</sup> A request to give public comment in-person or electronically does not guarantee time will be available.
3. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting should state their name, whether their child attends Desert Sky Montessori Charter School and, if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.
4. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of three minutes. Statements should be brief and concise. The Board Chair has discretion to waive time limits or extend the overall time allotted for public comment. Additional time will be allocated in a fair and equitable manner. Time limits will be determined based on the number of commenters and the amount of time available for public comment. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to

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<sup>1</sup> When in-person attendees are allowed to provide oral comment, virtual attendees will be afforded the same opportunity.

comment due to time constraints, the person is encouraged to submit additional written comments to the Board through the school office as directed.

5. Inquiries from the public during the designated portion of the agenda will not generally be responded to immediately by the Board Chair and may be referred to the Head of School for reply at a later date. The Board will not respond to inquiries that are expected to be addressed during another designated portion of the agenda.

The Board will not hear public comment at Board work sessions.

Topics raised during the public comment portion may be considered for inclusion as agenda items at future Board meetings.

### **Procedures for Written Comment**

Members of the public may submit written comments or materials to the Board at any time at the school office, by mail or by email to the Board Chair. Materials or comments submitted at least 72 hours in advance of a Board meeting will be provided to the Board before the Board meeting, but will not be read at the Board meeting. Written materials or comments submitted may not warrant action by the Board.

### **Comments Regarding Staff Members**

A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of public charter school operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual school staff member. The Board Chair will direct the visitor to the Complaint/Grievance Procedures in the appropriate handbook for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. Any association contract governing the employee's rights will be followed. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the Head of School, who will forward it to the employee, a supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)  
[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

*Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist.*, 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

*Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist.*, 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).

Oregon House Bill 2560 (2021).