

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION POLICY

The Andover High School Building Committee (“Committee”) values input from members of the Town’s public and members of its school community. The Committee may, in its discretion, set aside a period of time during an open meeting for public comment. Such public comment session shall be listed in the meeting agenda and its placement in the list of items on the agenda shall be determined by the Chair.

The purpose of the public comment sessions is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee in open meeting. Because the public comment sessions take place in open meeting, they generally are not an appropriate forum to address matters intended to be private or confidential

In order to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct its business in an orderly manner and in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, the Committee adopts the following public comment session rules and procedures. The Committee requests that all persons attending its meetings conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner.

1. The public comment session will last a maximum of 15 minutes. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. When a speaker’s time has expired he/she/they shall cease speaking and shall yield the floor.
2. Only speakers recognized by the Chair shall speak. All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.
3. The public comment session is limited to comment on the matters that are listed in the Committee’s posted agenda for the meeting.
4. The public comment session is an opportunity for members of the public to express their views. It is not an opportunity for dialogue or exchanges between the Committee and the speakers and no Committee members shall respond to or otherwise engage in dialogue with the speakers.
5. No person may interrupt or otherwise interfere with a speaker while he/she/they is speaking.
6. The use of racial, ethnic, gender-based, and similar epithets and disparagements about a person or group is prohibited.
7. The use of speech that threatens violence or that is likely to incite imminent unlawful conduct is prohibited.
8. No person may engage in physical conduct towards another person or persons and all conduct that disrupts the meeting is prohibited.

In addition to the public comment session, persons who wish to communicate their views on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction may do so by sending emails to andoverhighbuildingproject@andoverma.us and/or by providing written statements to the Committee Chair before the meeting starts or at the close of the meeting.

Adopted by a vote of the Andover High School Building Committee on March 27, 2023.