

**CHAIR**  
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**VICE CHAIR**  
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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
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**MEMBERS**  
LUISA DE PAULA SANTOS  
RICHARD HARDING, JR.  
ELIZABETH HUDSON  
ARJUN JAIKUMAR  
MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

January 20, 2026

**ORDERED:**

Referred to the Governance Subcommittee:

**WHEREAS:** The School Committee seeks to make certain that all stakeholders feel empowered to express their opinions through public comment to the School Committee and the Superintendent within a reasonable time frame; and

**WHEREAS:** Meaningful public participation is a cornerstone of democratic governance and public trust, and the School Committee recognizes that urgent matters of public concern may arise which are not yet reflected on a published agenda but which fall squarely within the Committee's responsibility to oversee the district; and

**WHEREAS:** The Committee wishes to provide the Chair with flexibility to adjust public comment time based on the number of speakers and meeting constraints, while ensuring that any such adjustments are applied uniformly to all speakers; now therefore be it;

**RESOLVED:** That the School Committee amend Rule 4.2 (Public Comment) as follows:

1. Public comment shall be permitted on agenda items and on any matters within the jurisdiction and authority of the School Committee.
2. The default time allotted for public comment shall remain three (3) minutes per speaker.
3. When ten (10) or fewer speakers are signed up for public comment, the Chair may increase the time allotted per speaker to no more than five (5) minutes.
4. When the number of speakers or time constraints require, the Chair may reduce the time allotted per speaker to no less than two (2) minutes, consistent with current practice.
5. Any adjustment to the time allotted for public comment:
  - o Shall be announced at the start of the public comment period; and
  - o Shall apply uniformly to all speakers during that public comment period.
6. All other provisions of Rule 4.2 shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion #26-014

cc:

Member de Paula Santos

Member Harding

Member Hudson

Vice Chair Dube

Member Jaikumar

Mayor Siddiqui

Chair Weinstein

Superintendent