The School Committee shall, when possible, solicit the advice and counsel of citizens in the planning and operation of the schools. Meetings shall be open to the public except when the School Committee votes to go into executive session, as directed by Chapter 39, Acts of 1975, Sections 23A, 23B, and 23C (Open Meeting Law). Any matter may be placed on the agenda for consideration by the School Committee by any citizen, subject to the following: except in emergencies, such request(s) shall be in writing and shall be received by the Superintendent's office prior to the scheduled meeting. The request(s) shall be accompanied by a written statement to explain the subject matter to be brought before the School Committee.

## Public Forum

At the beginning of every School Committee meeting, members of the public may briefly address the School Committee regarding any concern. The School Committee will not take action on these items until at least the next regularly scheduled meeting except by unanimous vote of those members present. The School Committee may choose to direct the Superintendent or designee to gather additional information for discussion at a future meeting.

Massachusetts General Law References:

M.G.L. 39:23A – Definitions

M.G.L. 39:23B – Open Meetings; Notice; Records; Enforcement

M.G.L. 39:23C – Participation by Public

Westford Public Schools Policy References:

P7109 – New Member Orientation

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001

Policy Reviewed: Policy Revised:

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Westford, Massachusetts 01886