

*KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

*OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOLS*

The Rhode Island Open Meetings Act recognizes a public body's ability to hold an optional open forum/public comment portion of a meeting. The Act defines this open forum as "the designated portion of an open meeting, if any, on a properly posted notice reserved for citizens to address comments to a public body relating to matters affecting the public business." R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-2(f). In light of this, the Kingston Hill Academy Board of Trustees may, from time to time, devote a portion of its open meeting to open forum/public comment. In such instances, the Board of Trustees will adhere to the following protocols:

- Should the Board of Trustees decide to devote a portion of its meeting to open forum/public comment, the Board shall indicate this by including an item on its agenda - "Open Forum/Public Comment"
- In an effort to allow the Board to conduct its business within a reasonable time period, Open Forum/Public Comment, in its entirety, shall be limited to thirty minutes
- The Board shall provide a sign-up sheet for members of the public who wish to address the Board during the Open Forum/Public Comment
- The sign-up sheet will be available fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of the public meeting
- Members of the public who wish to address the Board during the Open Forum/Public Comment portion of the meeting will be limited to three minutes of testimony
- Generally, members of the public will address the Board in the order of sign-up, unless the Board President, in the interest of addressing Board business, determines an alternative order is necessary
- The Board President, at his or her discretion, may conclude the Open Forum/Public Comment portion of the meeting after thirty minutes, even if additional members of the public have indicated their wish to address the board, but have not yet had the opportunity to do so