

Pittsfield School District

**PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

The Board believes that complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved by the parties directly concerned. Therefore, the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, or learning materials might be as follows:

1. Teacher or other individual professional employee;
2. Appropriate supervising administrator (dean or director);
3. Superintendent of Schools;
4. School Board.

Any complaint presented to the Board about school personnel shall be referred back through proper administrative channels. The Board will not hold formal hearings on complaints from individuals for the purpose of resolution until such complaints have first been brought forth through the appropriate and applicable administrative procedures. Exceptions to this provision are for complaints that relate solely to Board actions or Board operations.

In the event a complaint is made directly to an individual Board member, the procedure outlined below shall be followed;

1. The Board member shall refer the person making the complaint to the superintendent for investigation. The superintendent may delegate the investigation to the appropriate supervising administrator.
2. If the member of the public will not personally present the complaint to the superintendent or supervising administrator, the Board member shall then ask that the complaint be written and signed. The Board member will then refer the complaint to the superintendent for investigation.
3. If the person making a complaint feels that a satisfactory reply has not been received from the superintendent, the person may request that the complaint be heard by the Board. The Board will hear and act upon the complaint only by majority vote. If the Board does hear and act upon the complaint, all decisions by the Board will be final.

Adopted: March 1, 1980 (as Policy KL)

Amended: September 18, 2015

Reviewed: January 17, 2019