

CITIZEN CONCERNS

The Watertown School Board welcomes constructive criticism of the schools through whatever medium when it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program.

The Board places trust in its employees and desires to support their actions in such a manner that employees are freed from unnecessary, spiteful or negative criticism and complaints.

The Board also recognizes their obligation to identify responsible and valid concerns and channel it to productive uses. The Board understands that people have a right to question their public officials and to state concerns whenever they see fit. Open discussion is vital to the democratic process. The educational system, as does any other social institution, needs and is nourished by constant evaluation. Concerns with the schools, even when ill-informed and/or ill-advised, are expressions of free speech. No aspect of education can properly be hidden or put beyond the range of examination or disagreement.

If the concern or suggestion pertains to a student related classroom activity or incident, citizens are directed to first contact the teacher, or the building principal if unable to reach the teacher. Matters involving building procedures, auxiliary programs, or activity programs should be directed to the person directly responsible for the activity, or the building principal, if unable to reach the activity supervisor.

In the event that the citizen is not satisfied with the action of the teacher, supervisor, or principal, the superintendent shall be contacted next regarding the concern. An opportunity for the citizen to be heard by the School Board is then available to the person if he/she so desires.

Board members, when contacted by the public about problems, are requested to contact the superintendent. The superintendent will then process the complaint using the above described process.