

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS *Date Reviewed/Approved: 12/17/2018* *Policy Number: 2310*

*Issued: 02/28/1979; 10/04/2004; 02/25/2013
01/26/2015*

Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school district. The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings to observe the board as it conducts its official business. However the board reserves the right to meet in closed sessions, according to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters as are properly considered in closed sessions.

The Board of Education, as an elected representative body of the school district, also wishes to provide a forum for citizens to address the Board with public comments. To provide an opportunity for input while conducting an orderly meeting, individuals or groups may be heard by the Board in accordance with this policy.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. REGULAR MEETINGS

The Board will provide an opportunity in open session at every regular meeting for the community members, students and employees to address the Board.

2. WORK SESSIONS

In addition to public comment at the beginning of each regular meeting, limited time for public comment will follow each work session item. Comment will be restricted to the topic of each work session item. The total duration of public comment at a work session may not exceed one hour.

3. SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Board may designate special public hearings to allow time for public comment on major issues facing the Board. In addition, the Board may schedule additional public hearings when the community indicates sufficient interest.

B. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. A person wishing to address the Board on a specific topic or an open session item on the regular meeting agenda must sign up prior to the Board's regular meeting by signing his/her name, address and the agenda item or topic on which he/she wishes to speak.
2. A person wishing to address the Board on a work session agenda item for that meeting must sign up prior to the Board's work session by signing his/her name, address and the agenda item on which he/she wishes to speak.
3. The Board Chair will recognize the speaker.
4. Comments will be limited to three minutes for Regular meetings of the Board and Work Sessions. When the three minutes end, the speaker must stop speaking immediately. Yielding time to another speaker will not be permitted.
5. The Board will not have a discussion with any speaker.
6. No profane or vulgar language will be permitted or personal abuse against any person. The Board vests in its Chair or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when he/she does not adhere to the rules established above.
7. Public comments should not address any specific confidential student or personnel matter. Complaints concerning any specific employee or student are not permissible during public comments.

Citizens may not interrupt, disturb, or disrupt a Board of Education meeting and will be subject to the provisions of G.S. 143-318.17.

Nothing in this policy shall prevent the Board from limiting public comment at any Board meeting.

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.10, -318.17, and 115C-3