



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Policy Code: 2310

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. The Board, as an elected representative body of the school district, also wishes to provide a forum for citizens to express interests and concerns related to the school district. 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 or policy 2300, section D, paragraph 2, which addresses public hearings.

REQUESTS TO PLACE ITEM ON THE AGENDA

In order that the Board may fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, citizens desiring an item to be placed on the agenda for a specific Board meeting should direct written requests to the Chairman and/or Superintendent at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting.

The request should include:

- the name and address of the person or persons making the request;
- the organization or group, if any, represented;
- if a group is to appear, the name(s) of the spokesperson(s) for the group;
- if it is a school-related problem, the steps that have been taken to resolve the matter with the teacher, principal, or Superintendent; and
- a brief explanation of the nature of the item.

The Board will reserve five minutes of presentation time for an individual and ten (10) minutes per delegation for the individual(s) representing the delegation.

Upon receiving notice of an appearance by a person or group complying with the above requirement, the Superintendent shall place the item on the agenda for then next regular meeting of the Board and will assemble any available information regarding the matters to be addressed before the Board.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

A part of each regular board meeting will be set aside for citizens to address the Board. A sign-up sheet will be available immediately preceding the Board meeting for any individual or group to identify the speaker and specify the topic. The chairperson will decide the total time, up to 30 minutes, devoted to public comment and may limit the number of spokespersons of a specific topic to allow the expression of all viewpoints. Spokespersons are requested to limit their comments to three minutes. The board is not required to provide a public comment period if no regular meeting is held during the month.

Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board except to request clarification of points made by the presenter.

The chairperson will ensure that order and decorum are maintained at all times. Disruptions by any person or persons of a public meeting will be subject to action in accordance with G.S. 143-318.17.

REPORTS OF COMPLAINTS

Complaints about the performance of school personnel, implementation of Board policy, the quality of the educational program or school facilities should be submitted initially for a response to the school district official responsible for the program or facility or to the Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee will make available this Board policy and other relevant grievance procedures to any individual or group submitting a complaint.

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.17, 115C-36, 115C-51

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740), Role of Board Members in Handling Complaints (policy 2122), Board Meetings (policy 2300), Board Meeting Agenda (policy 2330), Responding to Complaints (policy 1742)

Adopted: 05/10/99

Revised: 10/17/05