

Board Policy BCBI: Public Participation in Board Meetings

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/05/2005 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/12/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/12/2023

Meetings of the Board of Education are held to conduct the affairs and business of the school system. Although these meetings are not meetings of the public, the public is invited to attend all meetings and citizens are invited to address the Board at all regular monthly meetings at the time shown on the agenda and in accordance with procedures established by the Board or the Superintendent. Public participation may be allowed at the discretion of the Board at certain additional meetings under procedures set by the Board. All members of the public attending any meeting of the Board must follow the Rules of Conduct set forth in the procedures. Citizens are encouraged to address items on the Board Agenda or to initiate issues that are appropriate for Board consideration.

A person wishing to speak shall sign in no later than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the regularly scheduled meeting using the Board's Public Comment Form, which will be made available by hard copy during the regular meeting and available online by visiting the District's website. The Board Chair (or presiding officer or designee) presides over the order of the meeting and shall have the discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of individuals speaking on an issue. The Board Chair may require multiple speakers from a group or organization appoint a single representative to address the Board. Unless specifically provided in the agenda, public meetings of the Board, outside the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, will not provide for public comments.

The most useful statements or comments to the Board are those that are related to matters of policy over which the Board has jurisdiction. All comments to the Board in accordance with this policy are to be brief and are intended for the Board to hear from citizens but not to take action. The presiding officer may defer requests for information to the Superintendent for later response. Citizens shall adhere to the established timelines and shall comply with instructions of the Board chair (or presiding officer or designee).

A member of the public may be removed from a public meeting of the Board of Education pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-58(c)(3). Rules of Conduct are found within the associated regulation of this policy. See BCBI-R: Public Participation in Board Meetings.

The Board consents to and publishes these rules of conduct on an annual basis by maintaining this policy.
