

**Regulation BCBI-R(1): Public Participation in Board Meetings**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 10/24/2022 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/17/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/17/2023

**RULES OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES**

These procedures are in accordance with Policy BCBI and provide the Rules of Conduct, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-58, for all Board meetings. Further, for scheduling purposes at regular board meetings, prospective speakers during the public participation item on the agenda must sign up by 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting with the Superintendent's Office by providing his or her name, address, and topic to be addressed. The address provided by a person requesting to speak shall not be provided to the public. The Board will set aside up to 30 minutes on the agenda of its regular meetings to hear comments from the public in accordance with these procedures.

All attendees shall remember that while the meetings are open to the public, the purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the school system and members of the public are invited to participate only as allowed by Board policy and these procedures.

1. Members of the public shall not conduct themselves in a manner that is disruptive to the conduct of the Board's business. This includes the use of obscene language, physically threatening remarks, hateful racial epithets, being loud or boisterous. Signs, flags, and banners are prohibited inside the Board meeting room.
2. Each member of the public participating in public comment will be given no more than five minutes to speak. The Board or its Chair may limit further the total time allocated for public participation as well as further limit the length of individual comments during public participation at its discretion for the purpose of the efficient operation of the business of the meeting.
3. Only residents of the School District, representatives of businesses or organizations located in the District, parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the District, or school system employees may address the Board during public participation. No individual or group will be retaliated against, in any manner whatsoever, for speaking during public participation.
4. The Board requests that any group or organization appoint a single representative to address the Board.
5. All speakers shall address the Board by first stating their names. All remarks shall be made to the Board as a body and addressed through the Chair.
6. Issues involving pending litigation are not subjects for public participation. The Board meeting or Work Session is not the appropriate place to address either criticisms of particular employees or individual parent complaints when such complaints have not been first addressed to the attention of the appropriate administrator for resolution. Citizens are encouraged to follow normal channels to address individual parent complaints or problems with individual employees. With respect to complaints from citizens about a particular employee's performance, a citizen wishing to address such a complaint to the Board shall first submit the matter of concern in writing to the attention of MCSD's Superintendent. If, after fifteen (15) business days from the written submission of the matter to the Superintendent, such issue remains unresolved, a citizen may request that the matter be added to the next agenda.
7. Speakers should remain at the microphone while answering questions. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks civil and respectful.
8. The Board is not required or expected to respond to comments made by the speaker during public participation. Persons appearing before the Board are reminded, as a point of information, that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters; thus, questions may be directed to the Board, but answers may be deferred pending consideration by the Board.

By reading and acknowledging acceptance prior to speaking during public participation, speakers attest that they understand and will abide by these procedures. The Chair of the Board is responsible for enforcing these procedures. Those attending a meeting or speaking during public participation who violate these procedures in such a way as to cause a disruption of the meeting will be warned by the Chair. A continued violation may result in a speaker being asked to sit down. If any person attending a meeting refuses to follow these rules, disrupting the meeting, they will be asked to leave and if they refuse, be escorted from the meeting room. Such serious or repeated violations of the rules of conduct may result in the individual being prohibited from speaking during a board meeting for an appropriate period of time. Any attendee violating the laws of the State while on District property or attending a meeting of the Board shall be subject to removal or arrest by law enforcement.