

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Meetings

Any member of the general public or group may appear in person at any regular meeting of the School Board with any school system related question, request, or item he/[she](#) may wish to discuss. Citizens or organizations may present matters of concern within a time not to exceed three minutes. The Chairman is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the appropriateness of the subject being presented and suitability of the time for such presentation. The School Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Special Meetings

The purpose of special meetings is to give the Board the opportunity to carry on discussions or to work through problems that take a great deal of time. Public participation at any specially called meetings of the School Board shall be determined by the School Board upon recommendation of the Chairman. Limitations will depend upon the nature of the topics under discussion.

Citizen Participation in Board Meetings

A. Presentations to the Board

Members of the public and division personnel, appearing as individuals or as representatives of organizations, shall have the opportunity to make presentations to the Board at regular meetings if deemed appropriate by the Chairman. However, the Board does not hereby obligate itself to act on any request or proposal that may be presented. Furthermore, the Board reserves the right to limit presentations.

B. Procedure for Advance Request

A person who wishes to be placed on the agenda should submit a request, preferably in writing, to the Superintendent ten (10) working days prior to the day of the meeting, indicating therein the subject of the presentation. Such requests will be scheduled under the agenda item deemed most appropriate by the Chairman.

C. Recognition from the Floor

The Chairman may at his/[her](#) discretion grant recognition to individuals who have not made advance request to speak and who wish to make brief statements to the Board. If the topic of interest is not related to an agenda item, the individual should request recognition under "Public Comment." ~~If the remarks pertain to an item on the agenda, the individual will be recognized during the Board's~~

~~consideration of that item.~~

D. Addressing the Board

Upon recognition by the Chairman, the speaker should clearly state his/her name, ~~address,~~ and the subject of his/her remarks and shall address himself/herself to the Chairman. If at the conclusion of the speaker's remarks any Board member desires further information, the member may address the speaker only with the permission of the Chairman. The courtesy of the Board shall be extended to the speaker, and the speaker shall respect the privilege extended by the Board or be ruled out of order by the Chairman.

E. Time Limitations

The time allotted to any speaker shall be at the discretion of the Chairman, except that a motion to appeal the decision of the Chairman shall be in order, and a vote of a majority of the members present shall be necessary to overrule the Chairman's decision.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: September 26, 1994; March 24, 1997; June 12, 2000, August 26, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, ~~sections §§~~22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:7.~~BC~~.4

Cross Ref.: Policy KD, *Public Participation at School Board Meetings*
Policy BDB, *Special School Board Meetings*