

The Board encourages communication with the public and cooperative school-community interactions, believing that an informed public and an informed Board will result in a better system of public education. Accordingly, the Board welcomes and encourages input from any interested citizen who desires to appear before the Board for the purpose of presenting information or raising matters relating to the public schools. In addition to other methods by which members of the public may bring concerns to the attention of the Board, the Board will provide an open forum as part of the Board's regular meeting schedule, during which approximately fifteen minutes will be set aside near the beginning of the agenda for the specific purpose of allowing members of the public to address the Board. In order to facilitate this communication and in order to plan and conduct orderly sessions that will ensure complete, high quality information is available regarding the subject of such appearances, it is necessary that certain guidelines contained in this policy be followed.

1. Citizens are advised that, in addition to the methods provided in this policy, they may request an item to be placed on the Board agenda in accordance with Board Policy 1321.
2. Discussions regarding particular individual employees, litigation, student records, or other matters which may be required to be kept confidential may not be discussed in the open forum setting. The Chairman will have the responsibility to determine matters of discussion that may be inappropriate and to rule the speaker out of order, if necessary.
3. Most matters of concern will not be able to be responded to completely and capably by the Board at the time they are addressed. They may be referred to a Board committee, the administration, or held over for further discussion at a subsequent meeting, as appropriate.
4. Any person who desires to appear before the Board may sign up to do so at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the Board meeting, and supply the following information:
 - a. The name and address of the person who desires to appear.
 - b. The subject to be presented for the Board's consideration.
 - c. If a group is to appear, the approximate number of persons who will appear and the name of the spokesman for the group.
 - d. The approximate amount of time which will be required to make the presentation.
5. Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting and who, upon being directed to leave the meeting by the presiding officer, willfully refuses to leave the meeting is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor G.S. 143-318.17.
6. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person or three (3) minutes per organization. An organization or delegation representing the same concern shall select one individual to make a presentation on its behalf.

Legal Reference: G.S. 115C-36, -47. G.S. 143-318.17

Adopted: June 5, 2000

Revised: September 10, 2018