

PUBLIC INPUT AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

FILE: BEDH

TITLE: Procedures for Providing Public Input at School Board Meetings

POLICY:

- (1) Public Comment Period.

Members of the public shall be able to address The School Board of Orange County, Florida ("Board") during a "Public Comment Period" at the beginning of any regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Public Comment Period shall begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. and conclude no later than thirty (30) minutes after commencing. If there are no speakers present, the Public Comment Period may be concluded prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) minutes. Once the Pre-Agenda Meeting has commenced, the Public Comment Period shall be considered concluded. The Public Comment Period is only applicable for regularly scheduled Board meetings and is not available during any other meetings of the Board, including, but not limited to, work sessions, workshops, committee meetings, or executive sessions.

- (2) Allotted Time For Speakers.

During the Public Comment Period, no speaker shall have more than three (3) minutes per meeting to address the Board. No speaker may transfer or designate his or her time to another speaker. However, an organization may designate a single speaker to speak on behalf of a group of attendees. No additional time shall be provided to the designated speaker.

- (3) Signing Up To Speak.

Speakers shall complete a public comment card prior to addressing the Board and may sign up to speak fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the Public Comment Period. The order of the speakers will be based on the order of submittal of completed public comment cards to the Board Clerk. Certain contact information regarding the speaker shall be completed including an email address and telephone number. Signing up to speak does not guarantee an opportunity to address the Board during that meeting's Public Comment Period. If the allotted thirty (30) minutes for the Public Comment Period expires, those who signed up to speak but did not get a chance to speak will need to return to a subsequent regularly scheduled Board meeting and sign up to speak. No preference in the speaking order will be given in subsequent meetings for those that were unable to address the Board in a prior meeting. By motion of the Board, the limitations on time in this paragraph may be waived or amended.

- (4) Germane Topics.

Speakers may only address the Board on germane topics that are related to the work of the Board. The Public Comment Period shall be reserved for any speakers wishing to address topics not on the Board's agenda for that meeting. The following topics or speakers are not permitted during the Public Comment Period:

- (a) Regular Agenda Items. Speakers wishing to address items or issues on the regular Board meeting agenda for that meeting will be asked to return and address the Board during the Public Comment Period for the agenda item in question.
 - (b) Solicitations or Procurement Items. As defined in Board Policy KCE, no vendor or lobbyist may address the Board on solicitations or procurement items that are in the blackout period.
 - (c) Quasi-judicial Matters. Speakers may not address the Board on any quasi-judicial matters that may come before the Board.
 - (d) Student or Employee Discipline Matters. Speakers may not address the Board on any issues or items pertaining to student or employee discipline or any other pending or ongoing investigations until all possible appeals have been exhausted and the matter is deemed concluded.
 - (e) Labor Matters. No speaker, whether an individual or a speaker on behalf of a union or other organization, shall address the Board during the Public Comment Period on topics that are the subject of labor negotiations. Such items will be referred to the collaborative bargaining process and will not be addressed by the Board.
- (5) Code of Civility.

The Board has adopted a Code of Civility which requires all participants to engage in meaningful but civil communications. Speakers addressing the Board during the Public Comment Period shall refrain from making disparaging remarks about any individuals and shall abide by the Code of Civility. Speakers shall therefore be prohibited from using loud or offensive language, inappropriate gestures, profanity, or any other language that, in the discretion of the Board Chair, or designee, is intended to bully, belittle, tease, or demean another individual or that is otherwise abusive or obscene. The Board Chair, or designee, in an effort to maintain orderly conduct and proper decorum in a public meeting, may remove a speaker that fails to abide by this provision.

- (6) Recordings, Preservation, Broadcast, and Rebroadcast.

The Board reserves the right to record, preserve, broadcast, and/or rebroadcast, including live streaming, any portion of the Public Comment Period. However, this provision does not require the Board to record, preserve, or otherwise broadcast or rebroadcast any portion of any Public Comment Period.

- (7) Materials for Distribution.

Copies of any written materials may be submitted during the Public Comment Period. It is recommended that at least eleven (11) copies be provided to the Board Clerk for distribution to all members of the Board, the Board Clerk, the Superintendent, and the General Counsel. No visual or audio demonstrative aids, including PowerPoints or video clips, shall be permitted during a presentation.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:

Sections 286.0114 and 1001.41(5), Florida Statutes

ADOPTED: 07/28/2011

REVISED: 12/13/16