

Policy BEDH Public Participation at Meetings

Issued 12/19

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for public participation in board meetings.

The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings. The board conducts meetings for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school district. The meetings are not public forum meetings but are meetings held in public. Orderly conduct of a meeting does not permit spontaneous discussion from the audience. Regular, special and emergency meetings are open to the general public, news media and school employees.

All persons who wish to speak during a meeting must do so through established procedures. These procedures are designed to encourage participation and ensure the orderly management of the meetings.

The board reserves the right to limit discussion of same topic issues in an effort to provide individuals the opportunity to be heard on a variety of topics. Individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Public participation will not exceed thirty (30) minutes unless waived by a majority vote of the board.

In order that the board may conduct the meeting in a civil and professional manner, comments from the public should not include gossip, defamatory words, or abusive and vulgar language. The board reserves the right to terminate any presentation which does not adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Agenda

Citizens wanting an item to be placed on the agenda for a specific board meeting should direct requests to the superintendent or board chairman. A citizen must submit a written request for an item to be placed on the agenda at least one (1) week prior to a scheduled meeting of the board. That request will state the name of the individual or group submitting the request, the address, the purpose of the request, and the topic to be addressed.

Adopted 2/12/63; Revised 10/11/88, 2/9/99; 12/31/19

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 30-4](#)-10, *et seq.* - South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.