

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

*Policy Code:*

**2310**

Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school system. The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings to observe the Board as it conducts its official business except as provided by law. (See [Policy 2321 Closed Sessions.](#))

The Board of Education, as an elected representative body of the school system, also wishes to provide a forum for citizens to express interests and concerns related to the school system. In order that the Board may conduct an orderly meeting while providing an opportunity for input, individuals or groups may be heard by the Board during one regular business meeting per month. If the Board does not hold a regular meeting during a month, the Board will not provide a time for public comment at any other meeting held during that month, unless a majority of the Board votes to allow public comment at the meeting or unless the purpose of the meeting is a public hearing.

### **A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. To respect the time and commitment of honorees and citizens who wish to address the Board, recognitions and public comments will be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting.
2. Each speaker will receive three (3) minutes to present comments; however, the public comment session will not exceed 30 minutes total except by majority vote of the Board. At the end of the three-minute limit, individuals will be asked to end their comments and leave the podium.
3. Individuals or groups wishing to address the Board must register to do so by emailing [boardclerk@gcsnc.com](mailto:boardclerk@gcsnc.com) or by calling (336) 370-8992 the day before the meeting beginning at 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. the day of the meeting. Each speaker must provide the following information: name, address, telephone number, and, if applicable, the group or organization the person represents. An individual may not sign up for another person.
4. During the public comment period, the board chair will recognize speakers in the order in which their request was received.
5. Substitute speakers will not be permitted, and speakers may not donate any portion of their time to another speaker.
6. If a speaker is unable to present all of their comments within the specified time limit or the speaker is presenting highly detailed or complex information, the speaker may provide the Board with the additional information in written form via email to [boardclerk@gcsnc.com](mailto:boardclerk@gcsnc.com) or by providing a paper copy to the Board Clerk.
7. If a large number of people request to speak, a majority of the Board may decide to reduce the time for each individual or to require the designation of a spokesperson for each group of persons supporting or opposing the same positions. At any time, the Board may establish additional procedures to ensure that public comment sessions proceed in an efficient and orderly manner.

8. Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board. If community members wish to receive an answer to a specific question or send written comments, inquiries should be directed to [boardclerk@gcsnc.com](mailto:boardclerk@gcsnc.com).
9. In order to maintain appropriate meeting decorum, follow appropriate protocols, protect the confidentiality of students, and ensure the impartiality of the Board, the Board will not entertain comments on matters involving individual students, parents or the character, professional competence, or the physical or mental health of an individual. The Board will not take public comment on personnel matters that specifically include the names or titles of employees; this includes but is not limited to: contract non-renewals, position abolishment, the hiring or firing of staff, and investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct. Communications regarding personnel issues should be sent in writing to: Guilford County Board of Education, 712 N Eugene St, Greensboro, North Carolina 27401 or via email at [boardclerk@gcsnc.com](mailto:boardclerk@gcsnc.com).
10. Persons are expected to honor meeting decorum. Applause, cheering, jeering, or speech that defames individuals or stymies or blocks meeting progress will not be tolerated and may be cause for removal from the meeting or for the Board to suspend or adjourn the meeting. Those wishing to display place cards, signs and/or banners must remain behind the seating area, or on the side of the seating area, and may not block any attendee's view of the proceedings. Place cards, signs and banners may not have sticks or poles attached to them. Disruptions by any person or persons of a public meeting will be subject to action in accordance with G.S. 143-318.17.

## **B. REPORTS OF COMPLAINTS**

Complaints about the performance of school personnel, implementation of board policy, the quality of the educational program, or school facilities should be submitted initially for a response to the school system official responsible for the program or facility or to the Superintendent.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -51; 143-318.10, -318.17

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievances (policy 1740/4010), Constituent Services (policy 2015/5005)

Adopted: TBD