

RULES FOR CHILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Board vests in the President or meeting chair of the Board full authority and discretion: (1) to refuse or terminate the remarks of any person when such remarks violate these rules, (2) to order or direct a person in violation of these rules to leave the Board's meeting room, and (3) to request law enforcement remove any person from the meeting room for violating these rules, disrupting the meeting or interfering in the Board's ability to hold its meeting.

When public comments are allowed, all delegations or individuals who wish to address the Board shall submit their written request to speak to the Superintendent by noon at least three days prior to the meeting date. (For example, the written request must be received at noon on Monday for a Thursday meeting.) (The three-day notice requirement does not apply to budget or public hearings.) Such requests shall specify the nature of the business to be taken up with the Board. A speaker will be allowed three minutes. Each delegation that appears before the Board shall select one of its members as a spokesperson and shall adhere to the three-minute time allotment.

The President or meeting chair shall not be obligated to recognize any person who desires to take up any business with the Board unless the subject the speaker wishes to address has been placed on the agenda for that meeting.

- I. Speakers at budget or public hearings are requested to sign the sign-up sheet. Speakers at budget or public hearings must begin their comments with their full name and address and will be allowed three minutes, which will allow time for multiple speakers. Comments at the hearing are restricted to the issue that is the subject of the hearing. Individual speakers may use posters during their three-minute presentation but must remove them at the end of their presentation and put them in a place where they will not disrupt anyone's view of the proceedings and will not present a trip or fire hazard. Speakers may use up to two tripods, with posters no larger than one square yard. Should a speaker at a hearing use a tripod, the tripod may be erected during the three-minute presentation and must be taken down immediately upon the conclusion of the presentation and placed in an area where it will not present a trip or fire hazard.
- II. At Board meetings, the Board may, at its discretion, entertain public comment. Should the Board place public comment on the agenda or allow public comment if not on the agenda, all public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. Repetitive speeches by multiple speakers are not allowed. The President or meeting chair of the meeting shall decide whether a repetitive speaker should be stopped. That decision may be appealed by the speaker to the entire Board, which shall immediately vote on a ruling, which shall be final. In those votes, the President or meeting chair shall also vote.

"The Constitution does not grant to members of the public generally a right to be heard by public bodies making decisions of policy.... Policymaking organs in our system of government have never operated under a constitutional constraint requiring them to allow every interested member of the public to present testimony before any policy is adopted.... Public officials at all levels of government make daily policy decisions based only on the advice they decide they need and choose to hear. To recognize a constitutional

right to participate directly in government policymaking would work a revolution in existing government practices.”

Minnesota State Board of Community Colleges v. Knight, 465 U.S. 271, 283-84 (1984)

- III. For public comments, speakers must begin their comments with their full name and address and must limit their speeches to matters of public concern regarding the Chilton County Schools. Matters of general public concern that do not involve the Chilton County Schools will not be allowed. Personal attacks unrelated to matters of public concern regarding the Chilton County Schools will not be allowed. The decision on such shall be made by the President or chair of the meeting. That decision may be appealed by the speaker to the entire Board, which shall immediately vote on a ruling, and whose ruling shall be final. In these votes, the President or meeting chair shall also vote.
- IV. The public may also address the Board members via printed information delivered to any or all members at 1705 Lay Dam Road, Clanton, Alabama 35045.
- V. The Chilton County Board of Education will tolerate no outbursts or disruptions. Those who make outbursts or otherwise disrupt the meeting will be asked to leave. Should the requested person or persons not leave, the President or meeting chair may direct the Clanton Police Department to remove the individual so as to cease the disruption of the operation of the Board of Education. Disruptions may include standing and obstructing the view of others as well as obscene or offensive gestures, including doing so in silence or those made without speaking.
- VI. Banners, signs, posters, balloons, and props are not allowed in the Board chamber during Board meetings unless such are part of a presentation concerning an item on the published agenda or upon invitation by the Board. Posters, signs, banners, balloons, and props are not allowed in any public comments section of the meeting unless approval is provided at that meeting by the President or meeting chair or by a majority vote of the Board. Banners, signs, posters, balloons, and props disrupt the meeting and block the view of the Board and/or those seated and observing the meeting.

Nevertheless, posters no larger than one square yard may be used as outlined in Section I, provided such is removed at the conclusion of the three-minute allotment.
- VII. Costumes and masks are not allowed in the Board chamber during Board meetings unless such is part of a presentation on the published agenda. Costumes and masks disrupt the meeting and create security issues. Nevertheless, surgical masks or the equivalent may be allowed in the event of a bona fide health concern.
- VIII. Attendance at a Board meeting shall not exceed the safe occupancy level set by the Fire Marshall. Once that occupancy limit is reached, no other members of the public will be allowed into the meeting room. Occupancy is determined on a “first come, first serve” basis. The Fire Marshall shall consider, when calculating the occupancy level, that any Board officials, the Superintendent, the CSFO, and the Board’s secretary absent from the

meeting may enter the meeting after it begins and shall determine the attendance of the number of members of the public accordingly.

- IX. Chairs are provided for the public at Board meetings. Unless speaking, the public is to remain in the area where the chairs are located and, during Board meetings, is not allowed to approach or mill around the Board tables. The public may not enter the meeting room through the door by the Board tables.
- X. To ensure clear ingress and egress from the Board chamber, any video cameras, tripods, and recording devices for Board meetings shall be placed in the back corner (by the outside wall) of the Board chamber. The Board finds that video cameras shall be treated differently from photograph cameras. A camera taking photographs requires no power cord. Even a video camera that has a battery might need electrical power from the sockets in the back corner (by the outside wall). However, a power cord traveling to areas where participants sit is a trip hazard and a fire hazard. Further, those who take videos spend more time doing so than someone taking even multiple photographs. A person standing disrupts the view of the Board from those behind the standing person and disrupts the meeting, where participants sit in the seats provided rather than stand in the Board chamber. For long meetings, even handheld video cameras may require an extension cord with power, and, rather than allow for the disruption, handheld video cameras (including phones in video mode) are restricted to the back corner (by the outside wall). The back corner has multiple electrical outlets. Further, video cameras, including handheld video cameras, often have lights. Lights shining in the face of the Board disrupts the Board meeting and could keep the Board members from seeing the audience. Lights must be turned off if requested by President or meeting chair.

Tape or other recorders may be placed next to the Board secretary and must be (1) battery powered because a cord presents a trip hazard and (2) must be left in the “record” position for the entire meeting. Individuals may not sit at the Board secretary’s table and must leave their recorder unattended. Tape or other recorders may not be placed on the tables occupied by the Board members or counsel.
- XI. The rules may be temporarily suspended at the discretion of the President or meeting chair or by a vote of the majority of the Board of Education. A speaker invited by the Board may be granted an exemption to the preceding limits for his/her presentation.