

Policy BCBI: Public Participation in Board Meetings

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/27/2005 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/09/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/14/2022

Meetings of the Board of Education are held to conduct the affairs and business of the school system. Although these meetings are not meetings of the public, the public is invited to attend all meetings and citizens are invited to address the Board at all regular meetings at the time shown on the agenda and in accordance with procedures established by the Board or the Superintendent. Public participation may be allowed in the discretion of the Board at certain additional meetings under procedures set by the Board.

The Superintendent shall make available the procedures to allow citizens to address the Board at regular meetings in accordance with this policy. These procedures shall include a requirement that notice be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and that the Chair shall have the discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of citizens speaking for or against an individual matter. These procedures shall be available at the Superintendent's office and shall be given, upon request, to anyone requesting a copy.

All comments to the Board in accordance with this policy are to be brief and are intended for the Board to hear from citizens but not to take action.

Operating Procedure BCBI-OP(1): Public Participation in Board Meetings

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/09/2021

Citizens of the community are encouraged to attend meetings of the Vidalia City Board of Education. Board meetings are public meetings and not meetings of the public, therefore, it is important to preserve the orderly pursuit of business and the following regulations should be recognized:

Presentations to the board of education will address major policy concerns and matters appropriate for the operation of the school system.

Individuals are asked to address the concern with building level administration first, and if the issue cannot be resolved then contact can be made at the district level.

Any person wishing to be placed on the agenda of the board of education must submit a written request in the superintendent's office at least 24 hours in advance of the board meeting. The request must include name, address, telephone number and a description of the issue to be brought before the board of education. This will be considered notification to the Board Chair and he/she will determine whether it is in the interest of the school system to allow the request.

The full Board vests the Chair with authority to facilitate the resolution of issues before addressing it to the full board. Individuals wishing to reach a satisfactory solution are expected to contact the Superintendent or designee prior to referring it to the full Board of Education.

The Board Chair will insure each board member is presented with a summary of each request and resolution.

If public participation is on the board meeting agenda, the following rules will be adhered to:

- Each individual will be given five minutes to address his/her concern(s). If a group is present and there is more than one spokesperson a maximum of ten (10 minutes shall be allowed. The public participation section of the board meeting will last no longer than 20 minutes.
 - The Board will not respond to comments or questions posed by citizens, but will take those comments or questions under advisement.
 - No person(s) will be allowed to disrupt or interfere with procedures.
 - Items which are excluded from the Open Meetings Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3) will not be discussed during open session. These include:
 - Impending real property acquisition
 - Matters involving the attorney/client privilege
 - Matters involving personnel or employees of the board of education
 - Matters involving individual students of the system
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Vidalia Board of Education

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUEST FORM

Public Participation Request Forms may be submitted by:

- Hand Delivery: Vidalia Board of Education, 1001 North Street West, Vidalia, GA 30474
- Email: aclark@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us (add Public Participation to the email subject line)

Meeting Date: _____ Topic to be discussed: _____

Please provide a brief outline of your remarks and what action you are requesting from the board.
Use additional sheets if needed.

My signature acknowledges I have read the Board Policy BCBI and agree to abide by the policy when addressing the Vidalia Board of Education. I understand if an organization or group of persons wish to address the board at a meeting, only one representative will be allowed to speak on behalf of the group/organization.

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Phone Number

Mailing Address

City / State / Zip Code

Organization (if applicable):

TO BE COMPLETED BY Vidalia Board of Education:

Received and acknowledged by: _____
Time / Date: _____