
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

I. PURPOSE

The Citizen Participation segment of the Board meeting is an opportunity and a courtesy extended to members of the public to provide the Board of Education of Carroll County with views on issues pertaining to elementary and secondary education policy and the administration of the public schools in the county. The Board welcomes individuals who are sufficiently concerned to make an effort to comment publicly at a Board meeting. All speakers shall conduct themselves in a non-disruptive manner. Although Board members usually do not respond to the comments during this segment of the Board meeting, the Board members do listen and often take follow-up action within the scope of the Board's authority and jurisdiction.

II. DEFINITIONS

None

III. POLICY STATEMENT

At the first meeting of each month, time will be allowed for citizen participation to encourage public dialogue with the Board. ~~The Board president or the presiding Board member may elect to give any member of the audience an opportunity to speak on any item on the agenda, to express an opinion, or to comment on any matter that relates to Carroll County Public Schools.~~ **Carroll County residents who wish to speak at an upcoming Board meeting should register in advance at the link on the www.carrollk12.org website. Alternatively, citizens may call the Communications Office at 410-751-3020 to register. A total of 15 slots will be available. Those who register will be notified if they have been selected to speak at the Board of Education meeting.**

~~An announcement will be made at the beginning of the business meeting that any citizen wishing to address the Board should fill out a citizen participation card and give it to the Board president before Citizen Participation time. When their name is called, citizens are asked to come forward and state their name and where their children attend school. Citizens who do not have children in Carroll County Public Schools are still encouraged to speak.~~ **address for the record.** In order to allow time for all citizens to speak, the Board president or the presiding Board member will advise citizens of the amount of time allowed for their comments.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

None

V. GUIDELINES

To have an orderly presentation of comments by the public, the following guidelines apply:

1. Comments are limited to three minutes or less. **All comments should be directed to the Board members at the dais.** When the allotted time expires, the speaker is permitted to complete a sentence and return to the audience. **Citizens may leave any handouts for Board members on the table at the back of the Board Room.** The public may not display signs or posters during meetings of the board. In lieu of signs, or if you are unable to complete your comments in the allotted time, individuals are encouraged to submit remarks to the board in writing.
2. Statements to the Board should relate to **an agenda item for that evening's meeting** ~~recent agenda item, an agenda item that is expected to appear in the future, or a matter of general policy over which the Board has authority.~~ Personnel matters, pending appeals, the actions or statements of individual staff, or items related to employee negotiations are not appropriate topics and may not be discussed.
3. Citizen Participation is not intended to be a question and answer session. If citizens have specific questions, the Board will make sure that an appropriate staff member responds to their questions later.
4. **The Superintendent/Board reserve the right to correct misinformation, presented as factual, after the conclusion of the citizen participation period.**
5. **The Board reserves the right to limit the number of speakers on a particular topic so that all topics may be addressed.**
6. **Those seated in the audience are asked to be respectful of the speaker and refrain from commenting to the speaker or to Board members.**
7. If any individual fails to comply with these guidelines, The Board president or the presiding Board member may order the person to leave the public meeting and may take further action as is necessary to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

VI. REPORTS

None

VII. EXPIRATION/REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years.

VIII. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED: December 14, 2005 REVISED: October 7, 2008