

The Vanguard School

POLICY: Vanguard BEDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings

POLICY ADOPTED: 11-20-24

All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of all members of the school, public participation is desired. Because the Board needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner and to ensure time is available for all viewpoints to be heard, the Board outlines the following as it applies to public comment at public Board meetings.

For individuals who would like to bring an issue or comment to the Board during the public session, the Board has set the following procedures:

1. Individuals may submit an email to the Board (no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting to allow for time to add the topic to the published agenda) with the proposed topic to be presented. These people will be given priority and listed in the meeting agenda. These speakers may take up to 5 minutes for their comments. There is no limit to the number of speakers requesting to make comments who submit their request via email to address the Board.
2. Individuals may sign up to speak during the public comment section of the Board agenda by signing the roster prior to the meeting's start. The roster must be signed prior to the opening of the meeting and will be given to the Board President at the commencement of the meeting. These speakers will be limited to 3 minutes for their comments. A time limit of 15 minutes (5 speakers) will be allotted in the agenda for short-notice speakers who sign up at the meeting. This limit may be waived by passing a motion proposed by any Board member, and thus a majority vote by the Board at that same meeting.

All issues concerning school policy should first be worked through the building principal and administration prior to coming to the Board. Discussion of all personnel matters will be conducted in executive session. Comments about specific incidents should be handled by the Grievance Policy and should not be brought to the Board in this forum.

At any time during a presentation, the Board President may revoke the right to speak if the Board deems the presenter to be out of order. *Robert's Rules of Order* will be followed, even for these comment sessions.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves, for maintaining proper order, and for adherence to any time limits set. Questions asked by the public may be answered immediately by any Board member or may be referred to staff members present for reply. Questions requiring investigation may be referred to the Executive Director for consideration and response at a later date and through a different process. Members of the public will not be recognized by the Board President during Board meetings except as noted in this policy.

Initial Date: August 2015

Legal Ref: C.R.S. 246401 *et seq.* (*open meetings law*)