

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the Dickenson County School Board to observe its deliberations. Any member of the community may address the Board on matters related to the Dickenson County public schools at any regular meeting as provided in the accompanying regulation. Persons wishing to address the School Board are requested to contact the superintendent, the School Board chairman, or their designee for placement on the agenda.

The chairman is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the appropriateness of the subject being presented and length of time for such presentation. Upon recognition by the chairman, the speaker shall address himself to the chairman and if, at the conclusion of his remarks, any member of the School Board desires further information, the member will address the speaker only with the permission of the chairman. No one will be allowed to make additional presentations until everyone who wishes to speak has an opportunity to make an initial presentation.

A reasonable period of time, as determined by the School Board, will be allocated at each regular meeting for community members to present matters of concern.

Adopted: August 14, 1996

Adopted: July 28, 2004

Adopted: May 28, 2008

Revised: February 23, 2011

Revised: April 30, 2014

Revised: June 22, 2016

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:7.

Cross Ref.: BDDE

Rules of Order

Guidelines for Public Comments at
Dickenson County School Board Meetings

A period of time for “Public Comment” will be designated on the meeting agenda during which the public may comment on issues related to public education. The Dickenson County School Board believes that the citizens of the County should be heard and that this is an acceptable format for receiving public comment.

After the Public Comment section of the meeting is closed, the public shall not be allowed to participate in general board member discussions regarding agenda items. Public participation with the board members regarding agenda items can be disruptive and the practice is prohibited by Roberts Rules of Order. It is the desire of the School Board to treat each member of the public fairly and equally. Allowing one individual to participate while excluding others is unfair. The Board may hold such public hearings as may be necessary to allow the public to more fully express their concerns or the Board may place the Public Comment section of any meeting at the end of the meeting to allow additional public comments.

While we do not wish to restrict the free expression of opinion, we feel that certain restrictions may be necessary so that order and reasonable standards of decorum may be maintained. We ask that the following standards be adhered to:

- The speaker will be recognized by the Chair.
- Each speaker will be limited to five minutes.
- Speakers will refrain from the use of vulgarity or profanity, and will avoid negative or embarrassing comments directed toward specific children or students.
- Board members should not respond to issues presented by speakers unless clarification is necessary.
- Matters of concern raised under “Public Comment” will be referred to the proper official for investigation and future Board consideration, if necessary.

Adopted: April 20, 2000

Revised: February 23, 2011

Revised: April 30, 2014

Revised: January 25, 2017