

## **Policy Code: 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings**

Wake County Board of Education meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school system. The public is cordially invited to attend Board meetings to observe the Board as it conducts its official business.

### **Public Comment**

A part of each regularly scheduled Board meeting will be set aside for citizens to address the Board through public comment. A sign-up sheet will be available for anyone to indicate their desire to address the Board. The following guidelines shall apply to the public comment period:

1. The Board regularly sets aside thirty minutes for public comment. Unless the Board extends this time, any speakers remaining at the end of the thirty-minute period may be recognized at the conclusion of the Board's business agenda. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes.
2. Citizens who sign up to address the Board will be called upon in priority order. The first priority will be for students, the second priority will be for speakers who wish to address items on the agenda, and the third priority will be for speakers who wish to address items not on the agenda. Speakers within the same priority level will be called in the order in which they signed up. This process will be utilized when signing up online or on-site.
3. The Board may provide for the designation of spokesperson for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same position
4. The Board may provide for the selection of delegates from groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions when the number of persons wishing to attend the hearing exceeds the capacity of the meeting room.
5. If a speaker chooses not to speak or is not present at the time he or she is called, the Chair will move to the next speaker on the list.
6. The Board will establish a method for keeping track of the time. Speakers shall stay within the time limit.
7. The individual listed on the sign-up sheet must be the individual addressing the Board of Education.
8. Speakers may not give their time to another speaker or trade their time slot with another speaker.
9. Speakers are welcome to offer comments or criticism directed at substantive ideas, actions, or procedures of the Board and individual Board members. In the interest of maintaining civility and decorum, however, speakers must refrain from personal attacks and insults directed at the Board, individual Board members, staff, or members of the general public.
10. The laws and policies of North Carolina provide that issues or concerns involving individual personnel matters are confidential, and therefore, not appropriate for public

comment settings. Concerns related to personnel issues may be addressed through applicable WCPSS personnel, the grievance policy, or other applicable policies.

11. Speakers, including students, may discuss issues and matters of general concern, but should refrain from discussing confidential student information. Concerns related to confidential student matters may be addressed through applicable WCPSS personnel, the grievance policy or other applicable policies.

12. No sign shall encroach upon or obstruct the view of others. Any sign or other material brought to the podium must be removed from the podium area and returned to the speaker's seat immediately upon conclusion of the speaker's remarks.

13. Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board except to request clarification of points made by the presenter.

14. Speakers who violate this policy may be ruled out of order and directed to leave the podium. Additionally, persons who willfully interrupt, disrupt, or cause disturbances at an official meeting may be directed to leave by the presiding officer. Members of the audience should show respect for the speakers by refraining from loud comments or other disruptions. Refusal to leave a meeting after being directed to leave by the presiding officer may result in criminal charges in accordance with [G.S. 143-318.17](#).

Legal References: [G.S. 143-318.10](#) and [-318.17](#); [115C-36](#), [-51](#)

Adopted: November 3, 2015

Revised:

**Wake County Board of Education**