

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in September	Descriptor Term: <div style="text-align: center;">Appeals to and Appearances Before the Board</div>	Descriptor Code: <div style="text-align: center;">1.404</div>	Issued Date: <div style="text-align: center;">06/12/23</div>
		Rescinds: <div style="text-align: center;">BCBI</div>	Issued: <div style="text-align: center;">07/08/13; 06/13/22</div>

APPEALS TO THE BOARD

Any matter relating to the operation of the school system may be appealed to the Board. However, the Board desires that all matters be settled at the lowest level of responsibility and will not hear complaints or concerns which have not advanced through the proper administrative procedure.

If all steps of the administrative procedure have been pursued and there is still a desire to appeal to the Board, the matter shall be referred in writing to the office of the Director of Schools, and the Board shall determine whether to hear the appeal.

APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD

Individuals desiring to appear before the Board may request placement on the agenda in writing by submitting a *Request to Address the Board of Education* form to the office of the Director of Schools two (2) business days before the meeting date. They will be recognized and given time to speak when their topic of interest is addressed on the agenda. Sufficient background material will be provided by the speaker. The Chair may recognize individuals not on the agenda for remarks to the Board if he/she determines that such is in the public interest. A majority vote of the members present can overrule the decision of the chairman. Delegations must select only one individual to speak on their behalf unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Recognition of individuals who are not citizens of the school system is to be determined by majority vote of the Board.

Individuals speaking to the Board shall address remarks to the Chair and may direct questions to individual board members or staff members only upon approval of the Chair. Each person speaking shall state his name and subject of presentation. Remarks will be limited to three (3) minutes unless time is extended by a majority vote of the Board. The Chair shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who violates state law or does not adhere to Board rules.¹ Members of the Board and the Director of Schools may have the privilege of asking questions of any person who addresses the Board.

Individuals desiring additional information about any item on the agenda shall direct such inquiries to the office of the Director of Schools.

Public Comment Period²

There shall be a public comment period for each meeting with actionable items on the agenda, with the exception of teacher disciplinary hearings. Comments shall be limited to topics listed on the agenda. The total public comment period shall be for no more than fifteen (15) minutes. Up to five (5) speakers shall be given no more than three (3) minutes each to speak. Delegations shall select only one (1) individual to speak on their behalf unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Legal References

1. TCA 39-17-306
2. Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 300

Cross References

School Board Meetings 1.400
Public Hearings 1.401
Agendas 1.403
Discrimination/Harassment of Employees 5.500
Complaints and Grievances 5.501
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-
bullying, and Intimidation 6.304
Student Concerns 6.305