



Decorum and Order-School Board Meetings 1-48

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
Bylaw 1-48

SCHOOL BOARD BYLAWS

Decorum and Order-School Board Meetings

A. Purpose of decorum during meetings

It is the intent of the School Board by adoption of this Bylaw to maintain appropriate decorum and order for, but not limited to the following purposes:

1. to ensure that the affairs of the School Board and School Board Committees may be conducted in an open and orderly manner during meetings;
2. that all persons desiring to address the School Board are afforded an opportunity to do so in the order in which they sign up to speak;
3. that persons in attendance may observe and hear the proceedings of the School Board without distraction;
4. that students and other young audience members who attend or watch such meetings are not subject to inappropriate language or conduct;
5. that School Board Members and School Division employees or other agents are able to transact the business of the School Board with minimal disruption while allowing for public input.

B. Limitations on addressing the School Board

Persons addressing the School Board shall:

1. Confine their comments to matters germane to the business of the School Board.
2. Refrain from obscenity, vulgarity, and comments or actions with the intent to incite violence or other breach of peace.
3. Comply with the time limits for public comment set forth in Appendix B of the Bylaws.

C. Other expressive activities during meetings

Expressive activities including, but not limited to, petitioning, picketing, displaying signs or posters, solicitation, demonstrating, pamphlet distribution, and conducting polls shall not be permitted in the School Board Chambers, the School Board conference room, the waiting areas and corridors adjacent to the School Board Chambers and School Board conference room, the School Administration building, or in any school building while a School Board meeting is happening.

D. Other methods of communicating with the School Board

The School Board encourages citizens and other interested parties to communicate with the School Board regarding matters related to public education. Due to the limited time scheduled to conduct business and the need to follow approved agenda items, School Board meetings may not be conducive for all forms of communication to the School Board. Persons seeking to communicate with the School Board may contact School Board Members through other methods of communication, including VBCPSschoolboard@googlegroups.com, as well as in addition to those provided at School Board meetings.

This Bylaw does not preclude persons addressing the School Board from delivering the School Board or its Clerk written materials including reports, statements, exhibits, letters, or signed petitions. Nor does this Bylaw preclude those addressing the School Board from using a chart or graph during their verbal presentation. Furthermore, nothing herein shall be interpreted to prohibit citizens from addressing oral or written comments or complaints on any subject germane to the business of the School Board to the School Board, its constituent members, the Clerk of the School Board or the School Administration outside the context of the public meeting.

- E. The Chairman or other presiding officer shall preserve decorum and shall decide all questions of public order, subject to appeal to the School Board.
- F. No person attending a meeting of the School Board, in any capacity, shall use, or allow to sound, any device in a manner that disrupts the conduct of business within the room in which the School Board or a Committee thereof is meeting. Notice of this restriction shall be posted outside of School Board Chambers and on the agenda for any School Board meeting.
- G. At the request of the Chairman or Superintendent, a city police officer shall act as sergeant-at-arms at all School Board meetings. That officer shall, under the direction of the Chairman or other presiding officer, have charge of the School Board Chambers, the School Board conference room, the waiting areas and corridors adjacent thereto, and the School Administration Building, and shall prevent disorder or interruption of the business of the School Board.



NOTICE TO PERSONS ATTENDING SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS REGARDING DECORUM
EXPECTATIONS

Meetings of the School Board and its committees are conducted for the purpose of addressing the business of the School Board. Certain meetings are subject to the open meetings requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Members of the public may observe open meetings but may only address the School Board or its committees when the public comments have been made a part of the meeting agenda.

1. School Board Bylaw 1-48 Decorum and Order – School Board Meetings sets forth rules to be enforced during School Board meetings. This Bylaw can be accessed on the VBschools.com website.
2. Please note that due to health or safety considerations as well as available seating in the meeting location, the School Board and the School Administration reserve the right to make determinations regarding the available in person seating and space for members of the public. When space for in person attendance for members of the public cannot be accommodated, efforts reasonable under the circumstances will be made to provide public access to the meeting through electronic or audio means.
3. When the Chair/designee determines that conduct in the meeting location or a location adjacent to the meeting location, is disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, the Chair/designee will first warn persons in the room to cease the disruptive conduct. If the disruptive behavior continues, the Chair/designee will stop the meeting and request that the person(s) causing the disruption leave the room. If the person(s) does not leave the room, the Chair/designee will request that staff or the Sargent at arms (if applicable) remove the person(s) from the meeting and School Board property.
4. The Chair/designee may recess the meeting until the meeting can continue in an orderly manner. In consultation with the School Board Members present, the Chair/designee may determine that in public access may discontinued or modified.
5. The following conduct may be determined to be disruptive to a meeting
 - A. Threatening or criminal conduct, or reasonable belief that conduct will become so.
 - B. Obscenity, vulgarity or comments or actions with the intent to incite violence or breach of the peace.
 - C. Conduct or actions that interfere with other persons being able to hear, observe, address the School Board during public comment sections of the meeting, enter or leave the meeting location.
 - D. Conduct that poses or is reasonably anticipated to pose a health or safety risk to persons in the meeting or an adjacent location to the meeting.
 - E. Petitioning, picketing, displaying signs or posters, solicitation, demonstrating, pamphlet distribution or conducting polls are not permitted in School Board meeting rooms or in the conference room, waiting area or corridors adject to the meeting location when the meeting is taking place.
 - F. During meetings, use of recording, communication, digital or electronic devices or other instruments/items in a manner that disrupts the meeting.
 - G. Other conduct determined by the Chair/designee to cause a disruption that interferes with the orderly manner in which a meeting is conducted.



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

Carolyn T. Rye, Chair
District 5 - Lynnhaven

Kimberly A. Melnyk, Vice Chair
District 7 – Princess Anne

Beverly M. Anderson
At-Large

Sharon R. Felton
District 6 – Beach

Jennifer S. Franklin
District 2 – Kempsville

Dorothy M. Holtz
At-Large

Laura K. Hughes
At-Large

Victoria C. Manning
At-Large

Jessica L. Owens
District 3 – Rose Hall

Trenace B. Riggs
District 1 – Centerville

Carolyn D. Weems
District 4 - Bayside

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent

School Board Special Meeting Proposed Agenda

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 5:00 p.m.

School Administration Building, Building 6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Pursuant to the Virginia State Health Commissioner’s Order of Public Health Emergency Statewide Requirement to Wear Masks in K-12 Schools issued August 12, 2021, and Virginia Acts of Assembly No. 1303, Chapter 456, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s guidance for K-12 schools, and the School Board’s 2021-2022 Reopening Plan adopted August 10, 2021, and the School Board’s vote on August 24, 2021, it is determined all persons in the School Administration Building must wear masks unless the School Administration has approved a mask accommodation and that limited public seating due to physical distancing mitigation strategies will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning shortly before the School Board Meeting. Members of the public will also be able to observe the School Board Meeting through livestreaming on www.vbschools.com, broadcast on VBTv Channel 47, and on Zoom through the link below:

Attendee link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fCx-zr6xTHa94TR-iUh_Jg Call-in (301) 715-8592 ID 874 4098 6167

Members of the public requesting accommodations to observe the Meeting should contact the School Board Clerk to discuss what accommodations can be provided. Members of the public requesting mask accommodations must have submitted such requests in accordance with the Notice for the Special Meeting. The School Board Clerk can be reached at #263-1016 or at Regina.Toneatto@vbschools.com.

-
- 1. Call to Order and Attendance**
 - 2. Purpose of Special Meeting call:** The School Board has called this Special Meeting for the purpose of reviewing, making recommendations or taking actions regarding how the School Board conducts meetings, accepts public comments at certain meetings, prepares for meetings and handles decorum, order and safety or health mitigation protocols for meetings. The School Board reserves the right to address related matters that arise during the Special Meeting. All School Board Members were notified of the purpose of the Special Meeting at the August 24, 2021 Meeting and by subsequent communication.
 - 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
 - 4. Motions by School Board Members to vote on any matters relevant to the Special Meeting**
 - 5. Summary of actions to be handled at a later date**
 - 6. Adjournment**