

<b>2140</b>	Board of Directors Public Comment at Open Meetings Policy
<b>Approval Date:</b>	January 2013. Revised December 2023
<b>Category:</b>	School Board Governance
<b>Governance Accountability:</b>	PLP Board of Directors
<b>Audience:</b>	PLP Board of Directors

The Pine Lake Preparatory Board of Directors (“Board”) recognizes and values the importance of providing opportunities for individuals and groups to address the Board at public meetings. Each month, the first part of at least one regularly scheduled board meeting will be set aside for citizens to address the Board through public comment.

**A. General**

Obscene, vulgar, or profane statements, personal attacks, hate speech, and statements reasonably perceived to be disruptive or imminently threatening to the orderly operation of a meeting shall not be permitted. Any limitation on public comments shall be viewpoint neutral. The Chair shall be responsible for determining matters of discussion that may be inappropriate under this policy and to rule the speaker out of order, if necessary.

Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting and who, upon being directed to leave the meeting by the presiding officer, willfully refuses to leave the meeting may be found guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. G.S. 143-318.17.

Individuals with concerns or complaints about the performance of school personnel, implementation of Board policy, the quality of the education program or school facilities are strongly encouraged to initially seek a response from the school official responsible for the program or facility, or from the Executive Director.

**B. Rules for Public Comment**

The following rules will be followed in regular and special meetings:

1. Any person who desires to appear before the Board may sign up to do so in one of the following ways:
  - i. In-person: At the Pine Lake Preparatory Upper School by 12:00 pm (noon) on the day of the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

- ii. By telephone: By 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the regularly scheduled Board meeting. You may do so by calling Pine Lake Preparatory at 704.237.5300.
  - iii. Online: By 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the regularly scheduled Board meeting using the Public Comment Link on the website.
2. Included in the sign-up process will be a request for a brief explanation of the nature of the item with background information sufficient for the Executive Director to provide a reasonable understanding of the matter to members of the Board; however, it is not required.
3. During the public comment period, the Board Chair or Executive Director will recognize speakers in the order in which they signed up.
4. Each speaker will receive two minutes to present comments; however, the public comment session will not exceed 60 minutes total except by a majority vote of the Board.
5. Substitute speakers will not be permitted, and speakers may not donate any portion of their time to another speaker. If a speaker is unable to present all his or her information within the specified time limit, the speaker may provide the Board with additional information in written (print or electronic) form.
6. When remote access is provided for Board Meetings, Public Comment allowances will be extended to those accessing the meeting remotely and in line with the Rules for Public Comment.

### **C. Response by the Board**

Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board except to request clarification of points made by the presenter. Except in cases of emergency, information received during presentations will not be acted upon at the time it is received. A unanimous vote of the Board members present is required to take action on a presentation considered to be of an unusual or emergency nature at the time it is presented.