

Public Participation in Open Board Meetings.

Irvine, KY —During the December 17th, 2015 regular called board meeting, members of the Estill County Board unanimously agreed to have a time for public comment at every regular called board meeting starting at the January 2016 meeting. This step is a continuing effort by the superintendent and the board to develop a more open and transparent relationship between the school system and the community as a whole.

The current policy will be updated and there will be a final reading of the policy at the January regular called meeting. The following paragraphs outline our revised policy.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

The public and the news media are permitted to attend all open meetings of the Board. No person may be required to identify himself in order to attend any such meeting.¹

EXCEPTION

The chairman may impose conditions upon attendance at a given meeting only if such conditions are required for the maintenance of order.¹

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The agenda for open meetings may include an opportunity for the public to address the Board.

Persons wishing to address the Board must register with the Board secretary prior to the meeting. At the time of registration, the subject of the presentation shall be stated. All groups shall have a designated spokesperson. Anyone addressing the Board must first be recognized by the Chairman.

Presentations shall be limited to five (5) minutes, but may be extended by the Superintendent when preparing the agenda or by the Board as it hears the individual presentation.

Issues presented should pertain to Board business. Individuals with complaints or issues concerning a local school should exhaust all measures at the school level with the school principal and/or SBDM Council before addressing the Board. The Board's main purpose is to establish policy for the entire District—not to settle disputes that could be resolved through other channels.

The Board shall not hear complaints about school personnel or other persons during a public session because the Board is not involved in the hiring, firing, or disciplining of District personnel.

SPEAKERS

The chairman may require the name and address of the speaker. The chairman may rule on the relevance of the topic to the Board's agenda. The chairperson shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to the guidelines set forth in policy.

FINAL ACTION

Except in the case of emergency, no final action will be taken on any petition or request submitted by an individual or delegation until a subsequent meeting and/or after due deliberation and study.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we will always be looking for ways to strengthen our relationship with the community. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at either jeff.saylor@estill.kyschools.us or (606) 723-2181.

Sincerely,

Jeff Saylor
Superintendent, Estill County Schools