

Descriptor Term: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Descriptor Code: KCA/BCBI

Rescinds: BCBI

Board Approved: 4/10/2006

Previously Approved: 8/3/1987

It being essential to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of representative government and to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner, and that citizens be advised of and be aware of the performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Gulfport School District that the formation and determination of public policy is public business and will be conducted at open meetings except as otherwise provided herein.

All official meetings of the Board of Trustees are declared to be public meetings and will be open to the public at all times unless declared an executive session.

Legal Reference: §25-41-7

To be placed on an agenda, groups or individuals will mail or hand deliver a written request to come before the Board to the office of the Superintendent, 2001 Pass Road, P.O. Box 220, Gulfport, MS 39502. A Public Forum Request form reflecting procedures for Public Forum is available in the office of the Superintendent. Should the agenda be too crowded, the matter will be held for the next board meeting.

The request must contain the following information:

- 1) name, address, telephone number, and signature of the person making the request
- 2) the date of the board meeting
- 3) the reason(s) for the request
- 4) request from groups must specify the name, address, and telephone number of the spokesperson of the group. This person will be the only spokesperson for the group.

The request must be received in the office of the Superintendent no later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the board meeting the person or group wishes to attend or it will be held until the next meeting of the Board.

The Superintendent will acknowledge receipt of a request and issue instructions for the appearance.

To promote order and efficiency, the following rules will apply to persons or groups coming before the Board:

1. No person or group will be recognized without first being placed on the agenda.
2. Only the individual designated as spokesperson will be allowed to speak for a group.
3. If any person willfully disturbs any public school board meeting, such person will be in violation of the law. Legal Reference: §37-11-23
4. The Board may make and enforce resolutions, rules and regulations for the conduct of persons attending board meetings.
5. Speakers will adhere to a reasonable time limit and will speak only on the subject(s) stated in the written request.

6. The Board reserves the right to take matters under advisement.

Legal Reference: Mississippi Code 1972, as cited above