

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Kyndra	Luce	Larger Venue for Board Meetings	Thank you for hosting the Committee of the Whole meeting at an alternate location today, January 8th, in response to the closures on Calhoun Street. I would like to ask that the school board consider a larger venue for all future meetings to accommodate the number of people attempting to attend in person.
Sydney	Gilkerson	Mental Health Absences	I think that the CCSD school district should allow mental health as a reason for absence. Sometimes people just need a break or can't deal with the school grind. I also heard from the principal yesterday that parent-excused absences don't count, which does tie into mental health absences. If mental health absences are allowed, I think that both grades and general morale will see a noticeable increase if people aren't going to school when they're barely keeping themselves going just so they don't fail from absence. In short, allowing mental health absences will get you better numbers.
Paul	McLaughlin	Turmoil	<p>Having lived and owned property on Seabrook Island for 22 years, having been a product of public education, and now having grand daughter attending St. Andrew's, I have watched far too many Superintendents come and be forced out in one way or the other.</p> <p>This kind of turmoil is unnecessary, counter productive, and a waste of public funds.</p> <p>In this day and age the schools need capable leaders, both elected and in high places. While it is up to the electorate to try to figure out which Board candidate is capable or not in the polling booth - a very difficult thing to do - the Board should be in far better position to search for select competent leaders to run the schools. I suspect the more turmoil there is the number of competent candidates shrinks. Who would want to work for a school board that goes through so many leaders?</p> <p>I know if I was looking to lead a school district, and despite the relative higher compensation, Charleston Schools would not be on my list. The Board needs to get its act together and stop acting like fighting children. If you want the best person to lead the District you need to act like adults. Our kids are watching and the Board is not setting a very good example.</p> <p>I take no sides in the divide. My only interest is in having the best education my granddaughter can possibly get to prepare herself for what life will throw her way.</p>
Hillary	Hutchinson	Agenda items 2B & 12B	<p>I am a taxpayer in Charleston County, speaking to Items 2B, adoption of the SCSBA (SC School Board member) ethical principles, and 12-B, the Superintendent Search discussion. I am worried that this Board will not live up to the last ethical principle, "Make our district's educational setting the best possible to encourage all students [~50,000 in Charleston County] to achieve and to love learning."</p> <p>Superintendents set the tone for the whole district, by monitoring school progress, allocating program funds, determining curriculum strategies, interacting with principals, and interfacing with the public. Given given the fiasco of the last search, with two candidates withdrawing from the nationwide search and the eventual \$359,000 settlement with Dr. Gallien to leave before he even had time to settle into the role, I am concerned the CCSD will once again waste time, money, and resources without providing any transparency in the hiring process. I respectfully ask for transparency given the amount of money taxpayers are ponying up to repeat this process and selecting the best possible candidate for our district. It's going to be extremely difficult to find a worthy candidate given the polarized nature of this school board, so public input will be even very important.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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Adrienne	Lett	Public comment sign up procedure	<p>I am unable to speak in-person at this board meeting, and other board meeting for the foreseeable future, because of the recent change to sign up procedures. For a meeting that starts at 5:15, public comment sign up starts at 4:15. I would imagine that those spots will still fill up quickly, and people may be queueing up prior to 4:15. To be in the building at 4:15, I would need to leave work at 3:15, assuming that I do not run into any traffic. To leave work at 3:15, I would need to arrive at 6:45am to put in my required 8 hours. I am usually expected to arrive at 8am. To arrive at work at 6:45am, I would need to live my house by 6am. I should not need to rearrange my entire day just to be able to speak at a board meeting. Additionally, sometimes the public comments don't even start until 8pm. It is unfathomable to think that if I want to speak in person, I would need to wake up by 5:30am, and I might not even be able to speak until 8pm or later.</p> <p>The new policy requiring in-person public comment signups actively restricts people who work typical office jobs with typical office hours from participating in in-person public comments. I have already emailed all the board members regarding how to "lock" sign ups on SignUpGenius once a sign up list is full. It typically takes less than an hour for the 30-person guaranteed list to fill up. It would not be difficult to have an admin "lock" the signup list once it is full, preventing those who signed up from editing their signup information, which the chair stated was the alleged main concern of the board members. There are also electronic portals other than SignUpGenius that can be utilized for public comment signup that have more available features. When I emailed the board about this, I never received a response from the chair.</p> <p>Bring back online public comment signup. There are ways to address the board's alleged concerns without resorting back to in-person sign ups. And bring back public comments during the COW meeting because clearly 30 in-person speakers is not enough.</p>
Adrienne	Lett	In-person public comments should be 30 people	<p>During what I believe was last month's board meeting, the chair stopped public comments before 30 people were able to speak. I believe only about 25 people spoke. There were about 5 no-shows from the guaranteed public comments signup list. After going through the guaranteed in-person public comment signup list, the chair ceased public comments because 30 minutes had already passed from the start of public comments. The "30 minutes" should not refer to the start of the public comment period to the end of the public comment period. The 30 minutes should only refer to the duration of time that is allotted for the public to speak, and individuals should be pulled off of the non-guaranteed sign up list to speak until 30 people have spoken.</p> <p>For example, people walking up to the podium should not count toward the 30 minutes. Resetting the time should not count toward the 30 minutes. The chair asking that the speaker restate their name because he didn't listen when the speaker said it the first time should not count toward the 30 minutes.</p> <p>30 people should each be given 1 minutes to speak. 30 minutes should be allotted for SPEAKING only, not resetting timers or clarifying questions from the chair.</p>
Adrienne	Lett	Chair speaking at Moms for Liberty meeting	<p>Most people, including myself, still think that it's kind of odd that the chair of the board spoke at last week's Moms for Liberty meeting. I emailed him and asked for a summary of what would be discussed. I did not receive a response.</p> <p>Moms for Liberty posted in their private Facebook group that the chair would be discussing the ELA/EL curriculum change, the timeline, and how Moms for Liberty can get involved in that process. The chair stated that he would just be discussing the information presented during the acting superintendent's presentation, which is already publicly available online. Many members of the public are concerned that information was presented to Moms for Liberty members that was not presented to the general public. It was also stated that the chair would be discussing his general experience as a board member and as the chair. While the chair stated that he was not speaking on behalf of the board, it sure seems like he was.</p> <p>The chair claimed that he would speak with any organization that asked him to speak, but the only examples he referenced were exchange and rotary. These two examples were referenced multiple times. Would love to know where else the chair might've spoken.</p> <p>Many members of the public, including myself, think it is odd that any elected official would attend or speak at Moms for Liberty meetings, given their anti-government extremist group designation by the Southern Poverty Law Center.</p>