

PUBLIC COMMENTS – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The School Board receives public comment out of the Board's legal duty and a sincere desire to improve the quality of the School Corporation's educational program.

Subject to the reasonable rules and registration process described herein, the Board shall allow members of the public, physically present at a meeting, to provide oral comment before the Board takes final action on a topic. The Board may choose to allow public comment during an electronic meeting held during a declared emergency or local disaster.

- a. To allow for an efficient meeting, the total amount of time dedicated to public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board may increase the time allotted for public comment in order to meet obligations under law.
- b. The Board shall allot each person providing public comment three (3) minutes to speak.
- c. Persons wishing to address the Board on an agenda item shall register twenty-four (24) hours ahead of the scheduled meeting time by completing the appropriate form located on the corporation website (www.tcsc.k12.in.us). The agenda shall be posted on the corporation website no less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time. The registration form will include the name, address, phone number, and email of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any), specify if the speaker has a student registered at TCSC, and identify the agenda item to be addressed.
- d. No person may speak more than once.
- e. In order to receive public comment on all agenda items scheduled for final action, the Board will take speakers who have students currently attending TCSC schools first, according to the date and time of the registration. Other speakers will be allowed on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date and time of registration. If the overall time allotment does not allow for accommodation of all speakers, comment will rotate through agenda items to assure the Board hears comment on all agenda items. For example, the Board would hear comments from the first person to register to speak regarding agenda item 1, then the first person to register to speak regarding agenda item 2, and so on and so forth for each agenda item scheduled for final action at the meeting. The Board would then repeat that process, moving to the second, third, fourth, etc., person registered to speak on each agenda item until all registered speakers have spoken or the thirty (30) minute time limit expires, whichever occurs first.
- f. The public comment segment shall take place as an agenda item immediately after the meeting is called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.

The purpose of public comment is to give the Board members as much information as possible, not to engage in debate. Board members or administrators may provide answers to questions asked during public comment if the information is readily available and not confidential. Often, however, questions will not be answered, but taken under advisement and answers may be returned at a later time.

The Board will not tolerate comments that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, defamatory, personal attacks, or on a topic outside of the agenda. Comments should be directed and addressed to the Board President, not an individual Board member.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the Board from taking reasonable steps to maintain order in a meeting, including removal of any person who is willfully disruptive of the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY – WORK SESSION

The School Board receives comments from the community out of the Board's legal duty and a sincere desire to improve the quality of the School Corporation's educational program.

Subject to the reasonable rules and registration process described herein, the Board shall allow members of the public, physically present at a work session, to provide oral comment on any topic. The Board may choose to allow public comment during an electronic work session held during a declared emergency or local disaster.

- a. To allow for an efficient and orderly meeting, the total amount of time dedicated to comments from the community shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board may increase the time allotted for public comment in order to meet obligations under law.
- b. The Board shall allot each person providing public comment three (3) minutes to speak.
- c. Persons wishing to address the Board on any topic shall register on-site prior to the published work session start time. The registration form will include the name, address, phone number, email of the person(s) providing comment, the organization represented (if any) and specify if the speaker has a child registered at TCSC.
- d. No person may speak more than once.
- e. In order to receive comments from the community efficiently, the Board will first acknowledge speakers who have students currently attending TCSC schools in the order of registration. Other speakers will be allowed on a first-come, first-served basis until all speakers have been called upon or the thirty (30) minute time limit has expired, whichever occurs first.

The purpose of comments from the community is to provide Board members and administration information, not to engage in debate. Board members or administrators may provide answers to questions asked during comments from the community if the information is readily available and not confidential. Often, however, questions will not be answered, but taken under advisement and answers may be returned at a later time.

The Board will not tolerate comments that are: threatening, harassing, illegal, obscene, defamatory, personal attacks, or on a topic outside of the agenda. Comments should be addressed to the Board President, not an individual Board member.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the Board from taking reasonable steps to maintain order in a work session, including removal of any person who is willfully disruptive of the meeting.