



# THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS Dr. Lisa Williams, Superintendent

200 N. Pinetree Blvd., Thomasville, GA 31792 | 229-225-4380 phone | 229-225-5012 fax

## Public Participation Request Form

The Thomas County School System believes that public involvement is an essential element for a successful school system. Board meetings are public meetings and not meetings of the public; however, any resident of the school district, parent of a student attending its schools, employee, or other stakeholder may request the opportunity to speak to the Board as part of its regular, monthly meetings during the time set aside on the agenda for public participation as long as notice is given within the required 24 hour period.

This completed form must be received at least 24 hours in advance of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education. Only one participant should be listed on this form. Participants will be given three (3) minutes to speak before the board if this request form is returned within the required 24 hours. The Board Chair shall have the discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of citizens speaking for or against an individual matter. Items which are excluded from the Open Meetings Act will not be discussed during the Public Participation Session. This includes certain land, legal references, individual discipline cases, and personnel items. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks civil. Profane, rude, or defamatory remarks and personal attacks will not be allowed. Any person willfully violating these rules may be prohibited from appearing before the board for up to sixty (60) days or more. If applicable, multiple speakers from a group or organization should appoint a single representative to address the Board.

Participant's Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please affirm one or more of the following by checking the appropriate box(es).

- I am a resident of the Thomas County School District.
- I am a Thomas County School District student or parent/guardian of a District student.
- I am a non-resident owner of property within the geographic boundaries of the Thomas County School District.
- I am an employee of the Thomas County School District.

Any student under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

I will be speaking on behalf of:  myself  
 the organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 the citizen group \_\_\_\_\_

Topic to be discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Education**  
Ken Harper • Chris Hayes • Mitchell Herring  
Ed Hopper • Leah Smith • Dan Stewart • Joy West

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Please state briefly an outline of your remarks to the Board. More detailed information may be attached. After review of your information, additional information may be requested.

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What I hope to accomplish is:

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List of each school official with whom you have met with and discussed your concerns:

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Do you have materials for the Board? Circle one: Yes No

(If yes, please include a copy of the materials when this form is submitted.)

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understand Board Policy BCBI pertaining to Public Participation, and that I have been provided a copy of the policy (located below).

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form to the Office of the Superintendent by mail to the Thomas County Board of Education, Attn: Dr. Lisa Williams, 200 N. Pinetree Blvd. Thomasville, GA 31792 or email to [lwilliams@tcjackets.net](mailto:lwilliams@tcjackets.net) and add Public Participation in the subject line.

**Board Policy BCBI**--Meetings of the Board of Education are held to conduct the affairs and business of the school system. Although these meetings are not meetings of the public, the public is invited to attend all meetings and citizens are invited to address the Board at all regular meetings at the time shown on the agenda and in accordance with procedures established by the Board or the Superintendent. Public participation may be allowed in the discretion of the Board at certain additional meetings under procedures set by the Board.

The Superintendent shall make available the procedures to allow citizens to address the Board at regular meetings in accordance with this policy. These procedures shall include a requirement that notice be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and that the Chair shall have the discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of citizens speaking for or against an individual matter. These procedures shall be available at the Superintendent's office and shall be given, upon request, to anyone requesting a copy.

All comments to the Board in accordance with this policy are to be brief and are intended for the Board to hear from citizens but not to take action.

For Office Use Only	Received at Board Office: ____/____/____	Time: _____ By: _____
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