

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools and, therefore are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.

Public Comment - Regular Board Meetings

The Board must give individual members of the public the opportunity to provide comments at every regular meeting of the Board. Therefore, the Board shall include an agenda item for public comment on each regular meeting agenda. An individual providing comment at a meeting shall provide to the governing body in writing the individual's name and address. The individual's address is an exempt record but will be maintained by the District. The presiding officer shall introduce the public comment agenda item and request that any members of the public wanting to provide public comment may stand (as able) during the agenda item, be recognized, and provide their name for the Board meeting minutes.

The following rules and limitations apply during the public comment agenda item:

1. Members of the public shall make request no less than 2 hours prior to regular scheduled meeting.
2. Time per speaker is limited to 3 minutes.
3. Public comment is limited by agenda topic, to the agendas of the current and preceding Board meeting.
4. Public comment must be pertinent to the school district.
5. Public comment may not interfere with the orderly conduct of the regular Board meeting.
6. Public comment may not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
7. Public comment may be prohibited if:
 - a. An alternative procedure exists to bring that particular type of public comment before the public entity,
 - b. The public comment includes confidential or example information, or
 - c. The public comment is otherwise prohibited by law.

Groups will be urged to designate a spokesperson. Notwithstanding the rules and limitations above, when there is a large number of public speakers to be heard, or if pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the presiding officer may shorten the length of time allowed for each speaker and/or limit the total time to be devoted to public comment.

Conduct and Remarks Out of Order

Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of Board business will not be allowed. Defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if, after being called to order, s/he persists in improper conduct or remarks. Furthermore, any individual who is persistently disruptive of a school board meeting may be removed from that meeting by order of the presiding officer

Public Presentations/Separate Agenda Items

Only items on the published board agenda will be discussed at any meeting of the Board, unless the Superintendent or a board member requests an addition to the agenda of a regular meeting and the board members present approve in accordance with Board policy. Members of the public who wish to be added as a separate agenda item and make formal presentations before the Board shall make requests in advance in accordance with the board's agenda setting policy.

Complaints

The Board has adopted policies governing patron complaints. The public is required to seek redress through these policies. The public will be prevented from commenting on a topic if it:

1. Is governed by a district complaint policy and the complainant has not followed the procedure contained in policy and/or the policy prohibits the public from bringing the complaint before the Board. This includes, but is not limited to, complaints about personnel and complaints about instructional/resource materials.
2. Includes confidential or exempt information (e.g., student's educational record), or concerns a topic that is otherwise prohibited by law from disclosure to the public.

The presiding officer or an appropriate member of the administration will answer all pertinent questions verbally or in writing at a later time. There will be no dialogue between board members and the public at board meetings except to clarify the nature of questions or comments.

Discussion of a Motion

When a motion is before the Board, discussion will be limited to board members and the Superintendent except as the presiding officer requests information.

Complementing Policies:

- BCAA, Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation
- BCBA-BR, Rules of Decorum at Board Meetings
- FGA, Student Education Records

- GAAC, Review and Complaints About Instructional and Resource Material
- GAAC-BR, Procedure for Reviewing Complaints About Instructional/Resource Material
- KACA, Patron Complaints
- KACB, Complaints about Personnel
- KACB-E, Patron Complaint Form

End of Jamestown Public School District Policy BCBA . . . Adopted:1/15/2018 Amended: 9/2/2025