

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Philosophy *Pitt County Board of Education meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying out the official business of the school system. For example, the Board considers policies and other information that may be utilized for the good of the entirety of the school system. During its meetings, the Board provides a forum for members of the public to express interests and concerns related to the school system.*

RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC EXPRESSION

1. **Request Form:** Members of the public who wish to participate in public expression must complete the request form on page 2 of this document. Blank copies of the form will be available at a table outside of the Board room 30 minutes prior to the Board meeting. All completed forms must be placed in a basket outside the meeting room no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.
2. **Speaker Introduction:** The speaker may state his/her name but may also remain anonymous. If the speaker is speaking on behalf of a group, the speaker shall identify his/her relationship to the group and the name of the group.
3. **Remarks Made to the Board as a Body:** Speakers must address their remarks to the Board as a body and not to any individual Board member. The Board Chair will cut off remarks from speakers who attempt to address an individual Board member. If members of the public wish to address an individual Board member, they should reach out to the Board member using contact information provided on the Pitt County Schools' website.
4. **Time Limits:** Individual speakers will be given up to three (3) minutes to speak. A speaker on behalf of a group will be given up to a total of five (5) minutes to speak. Speakers' remarks shall end when the allotted time has expired.
5. **Written Materials:** Speakers who wish to provide written materials to the Board members should provide twelve (12) copies.
6. **Obscenity & Defamation Prohibited:** Speakers are expressly prohibited from making obscene, derogatory, slanderous, or defamatory remarks while addressing the Board. The Board Chair will immediately cut off remarks from speakers who make such comments or any comments that he/she determines to be inappropriate.
7. **Board Will NOT Respond:** Questions from the Board members or the Superintendent may be asked for clarification; however, board members will not respond to comments.
8. **Disruption:** No person shall be allowed to disrupt the speaker except for board members. The public may not address the Board outside of the designated period for public expression. For example, no person from the floor is permitted to enter into any discussion among the Board members about a matter of business before the Board.
9. **Additional Cut Offs:** In the interest of time, if there are a numerous speakers on a topic, the Board Chair may limit the number of speakers on the topic.

Comments Regarding Specific Employees *The Board of Education supervises the Superintendent, and in turn, all employees of Pitt County Schools report to the Superintendent. Members of the public wishing to address the specific job competence and performance of school system personnel are strongly encouraged to report complaints directly to the Superintendent or his designee who in turn shall provide information about any relevant grievance procedures.*

Comments Regarding Specific Students *Board meetings are recorded and posted online. Members of the public wishing to make comments about specific students may jeopardize the safety and welfare of minor children by making comments at a Board meeting. Instead of making comments at a Board meeting, please refer the matter to the principal of the child's school, or if the principal has not responded, the Superintendent.*



REQUEST TO SPEAK TO THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Please complete this form and place it in **the basket outside the meeting room no later than 6:15 pm**. The Board of Education will not respond to comments during the public comment period.

TO THE CHAIR, I wish to speak to the Board concerning the following issue(s):

SPEAKER CONTACT INFORMATION

****A speaker does not need to list contact information if he/she wishes to remain anonymous.****

SPEAKER'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

City

State

Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Do you represent a group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes,

Name of group

Speaker's affiliation with group

Return to: Basket Outside Meeting Room No Later than 6:15 pm