

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the Lynchburg City School Board to observe its deliberations. Any member of the community may address the Board on matters related to the Lynchburg City public schools at any regular meeting as provided in the accompanying exhibit (BDDH-EZ). Persons wishing to address the School Board are requested to contact the Superintendent, the School Board Chair, or their designee for placement on the agenda.

The Chair is responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the appropriateness of the subject being presented and length of time for such presentation. No one will be allowed to make additional presentations until everyone who wishes to speak has an opportunity to make an initial presentation.

Persons desiring to address the School Board shall submit an advanced request in writing, to the Superintendent no later than 12:00 noon of the Wednesday preceding the regular board meetings or by signing the Public Comment Form which shall be available to the public 15 minutes before the meeting starts. Each person requesting to speak shall identify the subject he/she wants to address and, if he/she represents a group, he/she must identify the group.

Upon recognition by the Chair, the speaker should clearly state name, address and the subject of his/her remarks. He/she shall address himself/herself to the Chair and if, at the conclusion of his/her remarks, any school board member desires further information, said member shall address the speaker only with the permission of the chairman. The courtesy of the School Board shall be extended to the speaker and the speaker shall respect the privilege extended by the School Board or be ruled out of order by the chairman.

The total number of speakers shall be limited to a maximum of six individuals and/or group spokespersons at each meeting and the entire public comment period shall not exceed 30 minutes in length.

Adopted: June 4, 2013
Revised: May 6, 2014
Revised: September 6, 2016
Revised: October 1, 2019

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:7.

Cross Ref.: BDDEZ Rules of Order

SCHOOL BOARD BYLAWS

Public Participation

Persons appearing before the school board will not be allowed to campaign for public office or promote private business ventures; and should not use profanity or vulgar language or gestures; make comments about a public official or an employee that are not related to his or her official duties; engage in behavior that disrupts the meeting or intimidates others; or address the school board on issues that do not concern the services, policies, role and/or responsibilities of the school board.

Individual speakers shall limit their comments to three minutes. A speaker representing a group shall limit his/her comments to five minutes. The representative shall identify the group at the beginning of his or her presentation. A group may have no more than one spokesperson. The total allotted time for public comments at school board meetings is 30 minutes. Public comments are reserved for the public to provide input. The board does not respond to comments, answer questions, or otherwise engage in discussion at this time.