

**BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BOARD OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

POLICY 0169.1 — PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Proposed Revision

The School Board recognizes the value to school governance of receiving input from the public on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. To maintain orderly conduct and proper decorum at its meetings, this policy sets forth the Board's viewpoint-neutral rules related to public input at Board meetings, which are limited public forums.

Members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a **proposition before the Board**.

For purposes of this policy, a proposition is an item before the Board for a vote, and includes, but is not necessarily limited to, all items on the agenda noted as unfinished business, consent, and nonconsent. A proposition may also include a vote on a motion to rescind or amend action previously taken, consistent with applicable law. A proposition does not generally include items on the special order agenda, except as otherwise provided by law or specifically designated by the Board.

A proposition does not include items wherever found on the agenda upon which the Board votes in its quasi-judicial capacity.

A. Public Comment — Agenda Items

Public comment at regular School Board meetings shall be limited to **items appearing on the meeting agenda upon which the Board may take official action or otherwise receive public input as authorized by law**.

A person wishing to address the Board shall identify the specific agenda item upon which the person intends to comment. Public comment shall be germane to the identified agenda item.

The Board shall provide a reasonable opportunity for members of the public to be heard on propositions before the Board in accordance with applicable Florida law.

B. Time Limits

All public speakers shall have three (3) minutes to address the Board during the public comment period, subject to reasonable adjustments to speaking time when necessary to accommodate the number of speakers and to ensure that all persons who have properly registered have a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

A speaker's allotted time may not be transferred or allocated to another speaker.

The Chair may establish reasonable procedures to ensure the orderly conduct of public comment.

C. Registration

All persons wishing to address the Board shall register their intention to speak in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent or Board Attorney.

The registration period shall close at the time established in the meeting notice or, if not otherwise specified, at the beginning of the public comment period.

A speaker shall identify the agenda item to which the speaker's comments pertain.

D. Scope of Public Comment

Public comment shall be limited to the agenda item identified by the speaker.

Speakers may address the Board regarding the substance, merits, potential effects, or other matters reasonably related to the agenda item.

The Board shall not restrict public comment based upon the speaker's viewpoint, position, or opinion concerning an agenda item, provided the comments are otherwise consistent with this policy and applicable law.

Comments concerning matters not appearing on the meeting agenda shall not be heard during the regular public comment period.

Nothing in this policy prohibits an individual from communicating with Board members or District staff through other established means, including correspondence, telephone calls, electronic communications, or requests to place an item on a future Board agenda in accordance with applicable procedures.

E. Orderly Conduct and Decorum

The opportunity for public participation is subject to reasonable rules concerning time, place, and manner and to the Board's responsibility to maintain orderly conduct and proper decorum at its meetings.

The Chair may interrupt, limit, or terminate a speaker's remarks when necessary to enforce the time limits, maintain order, prevent disruption of the meeting, or enforce viewpoint-neutral rules governing public participation.

The Board shall administer this policy in a viewpoint-neutral manner and consistent with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Florida Constitution, and applicable Florida law.

F. Exceptions Required by Law

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any public hearing, public participation opportunity, or other right of public comment that is specifically required by federal or state law.

Where applicable law requires an opportunity for public comment on a particular matter, the procedures governing that matter shall control.

G. Opportunity for Community Communication and Engagement

The Board encourages members of the public to remain engaged in the governance of Brevard Public Schools. Individuals who wish to raise matters that are not on a Board meeting agenda may communicate with Board members or District administration through established channels or request consideration of an item for a future Board meeting pursuant to applicable Board procedures.

In addition, the School Board shall provide a **Community Conversation** opportunity at least **twice each calendar month** for members of the community to communicate directly with Board members regarding matters of interest or concern relating to Brevard Public Schools.

The Board shall publicly notice each Community Conversation in advance in accordance with applicable public-notice requirements. The notice shall identify the date, time, location, and manner in which members of the public may participate.

Community Conversations shall be conducted as public meetings and in accordance with all applicable requirements of Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law, public-records laws, and other applicable law.

Each Community Conversation shall be **recorded and made available for public viewing through the official Brevard Public Schools YouTube channel**, or through another publicly accessible District-operated platform designated by the Superintendent.

The Community Conversation shall provide an additional opportunity for members of the public to communicate with Board members outside of the formal agenda-based public-comment period. The Community Conversation shall not be construed to limit, replace, or diminish any public-hearing or other public-participation opportunity required by law.

The purpose of the Community Conversation is to promote accessibility, transparency, and meaningful communication between the School Board and the community while maintaining the formal Board meeting as a forum for conducting the business properly before the Board.

H. Construction

This policy shall be construed consistent with Florida Statutes, applicable administrative rules, constitutional requirements, and controlling judicial decisions.

If any provision of this policy conflicts with applicable law, the applicable law shall control.