

Murfreesboro City School Board

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in September	Descriptor Term: Public Participation in Board Meetings	Descriptor Code: 1.401	Issued Date: 07/25/23 04/14/26
		Rescinds:	Issued: 01/2000

1 INTENT OF POLICY

2 The Board of Education recognizes the value of stakeholder engagement through public comment on
3 educational issues and the importance of allowing community members to express themselves on
4 school-related business. The Board offers public participation to members of the public in four
5 circumstances:

- 6 1. The Director of Schools may ask a citizen with business before the Board to make a
7 presentation as part of the regular agenda;
- 8 2. The Board may, when topics of general interest occur, schedule public hearings on specific
9 topics as part of its regular agenda;
- 10 3. In accordance with other Board policies or state or federal law, the Board may schedule a
11 hearing in which members of the public may be witnesses as part of its preset agenda;
- 12 4. During a public comment period in compliance with this policy.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD¹

14 Any public meeting of the Board with actionable items on the agenda shall have a period of public
15 comment on those actionable items at the beginning of the meeting, with the exception of teacher
16 disciplinary hearings. The total public comment period shall be for no more than fifteen minutes.

17
18 Individuals will be allowed three minutes to speak with respect to an action item on the agenda and
19 matters that are germane to the Board's jurisdiction. ~~All comments are restricted to comments on~~
20 ~~action items on the agenda for the meeting.~~ The Chair shall have the authority to declare an individual
21 out of order, if after an initial warning, an individual continues to speak on a topic that is unrelated to
22 an action item on the agenda not germane to the Board's jurisdiction. The Chair shall have the authority
23 to terminate the remarks of any individual who violates state law or does not adhere to Board rules.²

24
25 The Board shall not take up any action item on the agenda before the end of the public comment
26 period; provided, however, the Chair may close the public comment period prior to the end of the
27 fifteen-minute period if all individuals who signed up to speak at the meeting have been afforded an
28 opportunity to speak. The Chair shall have the discretion to extend the public comment period for no
29 more than an additional fifteen minutes if additional time is reasonably necessary to ensure that
30 opposing viewpoints are fairly represented during the public comment period. The Chair need not
31 extend the public period beyond fifteen minutes merely because the fifteen-minute period expired
32 before all of the individuals who registered to speak were able to speak.

33 ADDRESSING THE BOARD DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

34 Individuals wishing to address the Board during the public comment period must sign up at least six
35 hours prior to the meeting start time by either sending an e-mail or calling the phone number set forth
36

- 1 in the public notice of the meeting. Individuals registering to speak at a meeting should state the ~~action~~
- 2 ~~item~~topic about on which they wish to speak and whether they will be speaking in support or in
- 3 opposition ~~to the item, if applicable~~.

¹ ~~Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 300~~TCA 8-44-112; City of Murfreesboro, Resolution 23-R-23

² TCA 39-17-306