

Agenda Item Title: Board Policy 1.401, *Public Participation in Board Meetings*

Board Meeting Date: April 7, 2026

Department: Legal

Presented by: Lauren Bush

Board Agenda Category:

- Consent Agenda
- Action Item
- Reports and Information

Requires City Council Approval: Yes No

Summary

Recent amendments to Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-44-112 by Public Chapter 300 require that all local governing bodies, including school boards, provide an opportunity for public comment at each public meeting on both (1) agenda items and (2) any matter germane to the governing body's jurisdiction, regardless of whether the matter appears on the agenda. The current Board Policy 1.401 limits public comment to agenda items only and must be revised to ensure compliance with state law change.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1.401 to align with updated state law requirements regarding public comment at public meetings.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact

Connection to MCS's Five-Year Strategic Plan

- Known:** Every student will be *known* through whole-child programs and support.
- Safe:** Every student will be *safe* through equitable access to buildings, facilities, and infrastructure that meets their needs.
- Challenged:** Every student will be *challenged* by learning from highly effective educators and employees.
- Empowered:** Every student will be *empowered* through academic success