

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS REGULATIONS

The Essex County School Board welcomes public comment during regular meetings and during public hearings. The Board Chair will offer board members an opportunity to provide generic comments at the conclusion of all public comments. All properly submitted public comments will be accessible to any member of the public following meetings or hearings. School Board members are available to meet with members of the public independently, outside of scheduled meetings and hearings. In addition, the Board reviews letters and emails sent to the School Board.

Time: Each speaker may speak for up to five minutes. A timer is used to time all remarks and speakers should conclude their remarks when the buzzer sounds. Only individuals who submit their comments in writing to the Board Clerk will be allowed to address the School Board. Time may not be “yielded” to other speakers. The Board may allow up to 30 minutes for public comment at the beginning (after the Pledge of Allegiance) of regular meetings and public hearings. If there are a large number of speakers, the Board may limit the total time for comment and/or may reduce the time allotted for each speaker.

Topics: Speakers may address an item on a School Board agenda or may address an item not on the agenda; however, all comments should address a matter related to Essex County Public Schools. The School Board will not hear public comment that involves a complaint about an individual staff member, a personnel action, a student disciplinary matter, a complaint about an individual student, or pending litigation.

Decorum: The School Board expects that each speaker will be courteous, modeling for our students how one can respectfully disagree with others’ views. No profanity or vulgar language is permitted. Speakers will address their comments to the entire School Board and not to one individual Board member, nor to the Superintendent, to a staff member, nor to the audience. Speakers will not engage in personal attacks. Speaker will present their comments from the podium provided for them. Any speaker who violates any one of these regulation will be ruled out of order by the Chairman and asked to relinquish the lectern.

Signing up to Speak: Speakers who want to address any school related matter must submit comments in writing to the Board Clerk before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment list. Speakers will be called in the order in which they submit their public comments to the Board Clerk.

Adopted: November 10/2014
Revised: December 10, 2018
July 10, 2023

