



**Poudre School District
Board of Education Policies**

Policy Type: **Governance Process**

Policy No.: **GP 3.13**

Policy Title: **Public Participation at School Board Meetings**

Policy Date: Adopted September 13, 2022

All regular and special meetings of the Board of Education shall be open to the public. Except in certain circumstances, the Board is not required to provide an opportunity for community comment. However, because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of all community members throughout the District while balancing the need to conduct its business in an orderly and respectful manner that assures the regular agenda of the Board is completed in a timely fashion, the Board will generally schedule time during regular Board meetings for brief comments from community members.

Comments made by members of the public during this time are not endorsed by the District, Board, or administration. The Board will not generally respond to comments made during community comment. If any response is given, the speaker will not be permitted a rebuttal.

Comments from the public may include any topic related to the Board's conduct of the District. Speakers may offer such criticism of school operations and programs as interest them and are encouraged to exercise their speech rights responsibly. Constructive criticism motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the school to do their tasks more effectively is welcomed by the Board of Education. Comments should be constructive or helpful to the operation of the school system; made for the improvement of the District's goals; or to improve the education of the children served by the District.

To participate in community comment, the intended speaker must sign up in advance as indicated on the Board's meeting webpage. All speakers will have the same amount of time to address the Board during the same meeting. However, the length of time allotted for each speaker is determined by the Board's presiding officer based on the number of individuals signed up to speak. Community comment will generally be limited to no longer than 45 minutes, with individual speakers typically given between 2-3 minutes each depending on the total number of individuals signed up to speak. Members of the public may also email or mail the Board or individual Board members.

During community comment, only the current speaker is permitted to be at the podium, unless a minor wishes to be accompanied by the minor's parent/guardian. Notwithstanding this rule, translators and other individuals needed as an accommodation may accompany the speaker.

Community comment time is made available for members of the public to address issues. Personal attacks will not be permitted. Concerns regarding individual employees should be made to the District's administration and not addressed during community comment.

During community comment, speakers shall not:

- Solicit funds for any purpose
- Advertise or promote specific products or services for sale or purchase
- Comment on subjects not related to the District, its schools, its operation, or education in general
- Use vulgar or obscene language or imagery
- Engage in harassing speech against any individual
- Discuss information relating to confidential student matters, unless the speaker is talking about their own child

Speakers who violate this policy will be given notice of the violation and a warning that if further violations occur, the speaker's comments may be cut off or the speaker may be subject to removal from the meeting. Members of the audience should be respectful to the speakers and must not disrupt the speakers or the meeting. Members of the audience who speak out of turn will be given a notice that they may be asked to leave the meeting if further violations occur. Speakers who engage in egregious violations may not receive a warning prior to being asked to leave the meeting.

Signs are not permitted in the Boardroom at the Johannsen Support Services Center (JSSC), 2407 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado or the JSSC lobby. This restriction is not intended to regulate the message displayed on any sign, nor to prohibit signs from being presented outside the JSSC. The purpose and intent of this limitation is to minimize distractions to the meeting, ensure audience members' view is not impeded, and provide for fair and consistent enforcement of the regulation of signs. "Signs" include any flags, paper, poster, multimedia displays, or other content that is displayed by an individual but does not include an individual's clothing that is actively being worn. Members of the public may bring documents to provide to the Board of Education. Such documents will be collected by the Board Secretary prior to the start of the Board meeting and distributed to the Board members.

Discretion remains with the Board's presiding officer to interpret the rules and determine the scope of this policy.