

Public Comment Guidelines

~~We~~The School Board invites and actively seeks the public's input in the matters relevant to School Board governance and provide for time in our business meetings to hear from our residents and community members. During public comment, we expect respectful and on-topic comments.

~~and (whether in person or via podcast)~~

~~The School Board will first hear from students who have signed up for the Public Comment period on the agenda.~~

~~The School Board wishes to maintain appropriate meeting decorum so that persons in attendance have the opportunity to observe and hear the proceedings of the School Board and that attendees such as students (whether in person or via video) are not subject to inappropriate language and conduct. Disruptive behavior from speakers or from members of the public in attendance will not be tolerated. The Chair will ask anyone who willfully disrupts the meeting in a manner that prevents or interferes with the orderly conduct of such meeting to leave.~~

~~We ask that those speaking and in attendance refrain from use of obscenities, vulgarity and comments or actions that have the intent to incite violence or other breach of peace. Disruptive behavior from speakers or from members of the public in attendance will can not be tolerated. Anyone who willfully disrupts this meeting in a manner that prevents or interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting may be ejected by the chair.~~

~~Individuals and/or organizations wishing to speak during Public Comment must sign up in advance. The School Board is piloting a new public comment process beginning on September 26, 2019, with the Clerk. The sSign-up sheet is available on-line beginning at 8 a.m. on the Monday of the week of the School Board meeting. On-line signup will be available until Noon on the day of ~~the meeting~~the meeting. You may also call the School Board Clerk's Office at 434-972-4055 to sign-up for public comment until Noon on the day of the meeting. The pilot will be evaluated at the beginning of 2020. ^[RH1]Members of the public who do not sign up to speak electronically or by telephone in advance of the meeting may sign-up in person with the School Board Clerk beginning at 6:00 p.m. In person sign-up will be available until the Public Comment period of the meeting, thirty minutes prior to the start of the meeting and will remain open until the Public Comment period on the agenda.~~

Public testimony guidelines are as follows:

1. Speakers should adhere to the following protocol:

- A. State name and address or magisterial voting district. Simply stating Albemarle County is not adequate.

- B. Address comments to the School Board as a whole.

~~C.~~ Limit comments to those matters that are relevant to School Board governance or ~~school-d~~Division operations.

DC. Give written statements and other supporting material to the Clerk. If you are unable to complete the presentation in the time allotted, a copy of supporting materials will be provided to School Board members.

~~2.~~ Three minutes will be allowed for each presenter to speak. ~~{~~However, the Chair, with the consent of the Board, may reduce the time allocated for all individuals to speak to two (2) minutes depending on the number of individuals who sign up. ~~}~~ ~~A commenter will be required to discontinue comment after three (3) minutes.~~

~~—OR~~

~~2.~~ ~~— Given there are more than ten (10) individuals signed up for public comment, each speaker — will be allowed two (2) minutes to speak.~~

~~—The School Board will hear from students who have signed up first during the Public Comment period on the agenda.~~

3. A color-coded light/~~card~~ system is used to time presentations. The yellow light/~~card~~ means the speaker is two (2) minutes (or one (1) minute if there are more than ten (10) speakers): into the presentation, and the red light/~~card~~ means the speaker is at the time three-minute-limit of the presentation and must wrap up promptly.

4. In order to maintain respect for all points of view, the School Board requests no clapping, booing, or any other audible form of support or nonsupport be used. If members of the public wish to show their support for a speaker, they may stand or raise their hands.

~~5.~~ ~~When multiple comments on the same topic have been presented, the Chair may request additional comments on the topic be limited to those who have new information to present.~~

~~6.5.~~ The School Board does not respond to comments made during the Public Comment period. However, Board members may address comments at the end of the meeting agenda under Other Business. Debate and dialogue with the School Board is not allowed.

~~7.6.~~ Use of the projection system is reserved for staff scheduled agenda item presentations only.