

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

It is the policy of the Terrebonne Parish School Board to conduct all meetings in full view of and with welcomed participation by the public. However, the School Board reserves the right to recess into or call executive sessions for discussing matters as provided by law. At no time shall actions be taken or resolutions made during executive sessions.

The Terrebonne Parish School Board may seek the advice and counsel of citizens in planning and operating the schools through committee service. Meetings of the Terrebonne Parish School Board shall be open to the public. All citizen communications to the School Board shall be addressed to the Terrebonne Parish School Board.

To facilitate the conduct of its meetings, members of the public who wish to present any matter of concern at a School Board meeting must give a minimum of five (5) days written notice to the Superintendent and said notice shall include the subject to be discussed. (Items to be placed on the agenda for Tuesday night meetings must be submitted by noon on Wednesday prior to the meetings).

The President shall allot a visitor not more than three (3) minutes to speak before the School Board, unless the time is increased or decreased by a majority vote of the School Board.

SPEAKING ON AGENDA ITEMS

The quality of the Terrebonne Parish Public School System depends in part on the efforts of citizens and their School Board working together in a constructive manner to provide educational programs to meet the needs of students and the community.

The School Board's policy is to be open and accessible to all individual citizens who wish to express interest in and concerns for the schools. A public comment period shall be held before any vote is taken on an agenda item. The comment period shall precede debate on each agenda item.

Members of the public who wish to speak on agenda items for which a vote shall be taken at a School Board meeting may do so by:

1. As each item on the agenda is announced, and prior to addressing an agenda item before any vote, the President/Chairperson shall call

for comments from the audience. Those persons wishing to speak shall be recognized by the School Board President/Chairperson. Any person so recognized to speak on an agenda item shall be allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes. This also applies to information items contained within the School Board agenda.

2. When an individual has been recognized to speak on an agenda item, that individual shall limit his/her comments to matters that are strictly relevant to that agenda item. The President/Chairperson reserves the right to stop any comments when deemed necessary.
3. In the event that the School Board should add an item for which a vote shall be taken to its agenda after the School Board meeting begins, the School Board President shall orally request of the audience whether anyone in attendance would like to speak on the added agenda item. Each person indicating a desire to do so shall be given an opportunity to address the School Board on each agenda item added. The School Board shall delay deliberations on that agenda item until such time as all interested members of the public have had an opportunity to speak.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH DISABILITIES

The School Board shall allow any member of the public with a disability recognized by the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, or a designated caregiver of such a person, to participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference, and shall facilitate participation by any such person who requests that accommodation prior to the meeting. Members of the public who desire to participate in this fashion shall certify that they meet the definition of a person with a disability recognized under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* when they submit, prior to public meetings, their requests to comment on agenda items and shall comply with the same rules and regulations on speaking applicable to those participating in person at such meetings.

Revised: April 1996
Revised: September 1997
Revised: November 2008
Revised: April 2019
Revised: October 2020

Revised: August 2023

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 42:5, 42:5.1; Board minutes, 6-19-84, 2-21-95, 4-23-96, 9-16-97, 11-18-08, 5-7-19, 10-6-20, 9-5-23.