

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

Code **BEDH** Issued **11/02**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for public participation in board meetings.

The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings. The board conducts meetings for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the center. The meetings are not public forum meetings but are meetings held in public. Orderly conduct of a meeting does not permit spontaneous discussion from the audience. Regular, special and emergency meetings are open to the general public, news media and center staff.

In order that the board may fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, citizens wanting an item to be placed on the agenda for a specific board meeting should direct requests to the director or board chairman.

Agenda

The board urges all persons to participate through established procedures. These procedures are designed to encourage participation and ensure the orderly management of the center. The board is committed to compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act as well as all other federal and state laws which regulate or impinge on board actions and policy.

A citizen must submit a written request for an item to be placed on the agenda no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifth school day prior to a scheduled meeting of the board. That request will state the name of the individual or group submitting the request, the address, the purpose of the request and the topic to be addressed.

The chairman of the board will introduce speakers who have previously submitted a request to the board at the appropriate time during the agenda and invite them to make comments on agenda topics. Speakers may offer objective comments on school operations and programs that concern them. Speakers will be limited to three minutes per person. Public participation is not to exceed 15 minutes in any one meeting. The board will not permit in public session any expression of personal complaints about center personnel nor against any person connected with the center system.

Adopted 3/18/85; Revised 11/25/02

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 30-4-10, et seq. - South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.