

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC COMMENT AND ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 10, 2021, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)
Updated August 10, 2021

Public comment during the board meetings is one of the many opportunities the Board provides to receive the views and advice from the community. The members of the Board appreciate hearing from interested citizens. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, procedures for public comment were temporarily changed as the Board shifted to a virtual meeting format.

Starting with its August 10, 2021, meeting, the Board will begin conducting the public comment portion of the meeting by allowing members of the public attend the board meeting in person in a limited capacity.

Attending the Board Meeting in Person

Persons may to attend the Board meeting in person by completing and submitting a [BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE – Registration Form](#). Both registrations (to speak and to attend the Board meeting) will open one week prior to the Board meeting date and close at 3 p.m. on the day before the meeting.

Speakers:

1. Any person or stakeholder group representative who wishes to address the Board must register with the Office of the Board of Education by completing and submitting a [BOARD MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT– Registration Form](#). Sign-up for public comment is limited to 10 speakers, and speakers will be selected using a random electronic selection process from all registration submissions received within the designated time frame outlined above. If selected, participants will receive a notice to confirm their registration along with guidelines and procedures. Prior to calling the first speaker, the Board chair will again explain these meeting procedures for the benefit of the viewing public. The Chair will then call on speakers in order of their registration selection. No speaker substitutions will be allowed. There will be no option to join virtually or by phone.
2. All comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Time will be monitored through the use of a timer. At the end of the 3-minute period, speakers will end their comments. Speakers may also be interrupted from speaking if they address specific student or employee matters or comment on matters unrelated to public education in Baltimore County.

Safety Procedures:

3. Members of the public are asked not to register to speak or to attend in person if they have symptoms of illness.
4. Effective August 10, 2021, face coverings are required for all staff, students, and visitors to enter all schools, offices, and buildings.
5. Those attending the meeting will sign in with a staff representative; only preregistered individuals will be allowed access to the building.
6. Those attending the meeting will not be allowed to congregate in the hallways; therefore, attendees will wait outside until the Board Room is available. No one will be allowed to stand at the door of the Board Room.
7. Members of the public will continue to sign up for public speaking or attendance through an online registration form. There will be no option to join virtually or by phone.
8. Public comment speakers will be designated one seat per person and be seated in the Board Room, unless capacity is reached, then they will be seated in an overflow room.

Although speakers are encouraged to provide public input on policies, programs, and practices within the purview of the Board and the school system, it is not the proper forum to address specific student or employee matters, matters under appeal, or to comment on matters unrelated to public education in Baltimore County. The Board encourages everyone to utilize existing dispute resolution processes, as appropriate. Lastly, inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of the meeting will be deemed out of order. If not selected to provide oral public comment during the Board meeting, persons are encouraged to submit their comments to the Board members via e-mail to boe@bcps.org.