The board welcomes the public to attend board sessions and encourages citizens to appear and bring before the board any matter to improve the school system.

Board meetings are open to the public and press except for discussion of matters that should properly be conducted in executive session.

The agenda of each regular meeting provides a public forum so an individual or group may speak on any subject pertaining to the school system, except personnel.

- Anyone representing either himself or a group and desiring to speak before the board should inform the superintendent of his desire to speak and his topic at least seven days before the meeting to permit orderly scheduling; however, a person may speak during public forum without notifying the board in advance.
- A speaker may offer objective commendations, observations or criticisms of school operations and programs. However, in public session, the board will not hear personal complaints either by or against any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide for board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.
- Any individual desiring to speak should come to the front of the board room and give his name, address and the group, if any, that he is representing.
- A presentation should be as brief as possible, yet include all information considered important by the speaker. Unless an extension is granted, each speaker will limit himself to five minutes.
- If one spokesman has presented a matter, it is not necessary for others to repeat the same ideas, but anyone may speak who has comments to add.
- No personal abuse against any person or vulgar language will be permitted.
- Board members are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. For this reason, questions may be directed to a board member but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the board.
- Except in emergencies, board members will have the opportunity to avail themselves of the necessary time to study any proposal submitted to the board before ruling on the proposal.
- The board will not permit its objective of giving everyone an opportunity to be heard to be used as the means of making an unsupported and unwarranted attack on board members or the school system staff.
- The board vests in the chair or presiding officer the authority to terminate remarks of any individual, should that individual not adhere to the rules above.

Adopted January 21, 1992

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions

South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended
- Section 30-4-10, et seq. – South Carolina Freedom of Information Act