

## Policy BEDH - Pilot Program for Public Comment\*

TOPIC	DETAILS
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>The School Board has considered proposed revisions to <a href="#">Board Policy BEDH Public Input at School Board Meetings</a>, focusing primarily on the <b>Public Comment Period</b> (there are two (2) opportunities: (1) <b>Open Public Comment Period</b> for items <b>not</b> on the agenda and (2) <b>Agenda Public Comment Period</b> for items on the agenda), adding an item to the agenda for <b>District Associations/Student Council Reports</b> to Section 2, and other logistical topics.</p> <p>At a work session on May 16, 2023, the School Board provided some guidelines for a pilot program to begin on July 1, 2023. Over the course of the remainder of the year, the School Board made various adjustments to the Pilot Program and at a work session on December 5, 2023, the School Board provided direction to continue the Pilot Program with some additional changes which are found in this document.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Public Comment Period:</b> Though not required by law, the Open Public Comment Period offers the public an opportunity to provide comment to the School Board on items <b>not</b> on an agenda. This time is reserved to hear about items that are relevant to the work of the School Board and occurs prior to a regular School Board meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Agenda Public Comment Period:</b> <a href="#">Section 286.0114(2), Florida Statutes</a>, provides that "[m]embers of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a board or commission." This opportunity occurs during a regular School Board Meeting, Public Hearing, Rule Development Workshop, or Special Meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Email Public Comment:</b> Members of the public who wish to provide public comment via email for the School Board's consideration at a regular School Board Meeting, Public Hearing, or Rule Development Workshop, may send an email to <a href="mailto:publiccomment@ocps.net">publiccomment@ocps.net</a> by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled meeting. Emails that are received timely will be sent to the School Board the morning of the scheduled meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>START TIMES</b>	<p><b>4:00 p.m.:</b> The <b>Open Public Comment Period</b> will start at 4:00 p.m. and will last up to forty-five (45) minutes.</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m.:</b> The regular School Board Meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. The <b>Agenda Public Comment Period</b> will begin as the School Board goes through the agenda.</p>

## Open Public Comment Period

<p><b>SIGN UP PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><a href="#">***Click here to access the ONLINE ADVANCED REGISTRATION platform.</a></p> <p><i>Please note that the Online Advanced Registration platform closes at 11:59 p.m. the day before each meeting.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Online Advanced Registration – Seven (7) Days Prior to Meeting:</b> Speakers are able to sign up to speak as soon as the agenda is released to the public seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Speakers who sign up online in advance <b><i>must check in with a member of School Board Services upon arrival</i></b> and will be prioritized by category based on the category of prioritization in which they fall:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Category 1:</b> Parent/legal guardian/student/employee</li> <li>○ <b>Category 2:</b> Orange County, Florida resident</li> <li>○ <b>Category 3:</b> Non-resident of Orange County, Florida* (<i>if speakers have not specified into which category they fall, the default category will be to non-resident of Orange County, Florida</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Day-Of Registration - 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.:</b> Members of School Board Services will be in the lobby to distribute Speaker Requests (<b>blue</b> cards). Speaker Requests must be filled out legibly and completely.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.:</b> Speakers who sign up the day of the meeting between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. will also be prioritized by category as set forth above but will speak <b><i>after</i></b> those who signed up using the online advanced registration.</li> <li>○ <b>3:46 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.:</b> Speaker Requests will be accepted in the lobby until 4:15 p.m. Speaker Requests received after 3:45 p.m. will <b><i>not</i></b> be prioritized by category and will be added in the order received.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Speakers may only speak one (1) time during the Open Public Comment Period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TIME ALLOTTED FOR SPEAKERS DURING OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b></p>	<p>The Open Public Comment Period will begin at 4:00 p.m. on a regular School Board meeting day and last up to forty-five (45) minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are between one (1) and ten (10) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to three (3) minutes to speak.</b></li> <li>• If there are between eleven (11) and twenty (20) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to two (2) minutes to speak.</b></li> <li>• If there are more than twenty (21+) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to one (1) minute to speak.</b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>*Due to the forty-five (45) minute time limit on the Open Comment Period, some speakers may not have an opportunity to speak.</i></b></p>
<p><b>LIVESTREAMING</b></p>	<p>There will be <b><i>no</i></b> livestreaming of the Open Public Comment Period.</p>
<p><b>TOPICS</b></p>	<p>Speakers may speak on topics that are <b><i>not</i></b> on the agenda but are relevant to the work of the School Board. Open Public Comment on the following topics are <b><i>not</i></b> permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• matters subject to any quasi-judicial process;</li> <li>• pending litigation (including any issues related to pending investigations or employee or student discipline matters);</li> <li>• bargaining process or other workplace labor concerns (there is a bargaining process and system in which bargained issues and labor complaints may be brought to the table between the parties); and/or</li> <li>• prospective or current vendors and lobbyists are not permitted to comment during the bidding black-out/no-contact period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NO TELEPHONIC OPTION</b></p>	<p>There will be no option for speakers to call in using a telephonic option during the Open Public Comment Period.</p>

## Agenda Public Comment Period

<p><b>SIGN UP PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><a href="#">***Click here to access the ONLINE ADVANCED REGISTRATION platform.</a></p> <p><i>Please note that the Online Advanced Registration platform closes at 11:59 p.m. the day before each meeting.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Online Advanced Registration – Seven (7) Days Prior to Meeting:</b> Speakers are able to sign up to speak as soon as the agenda is released to the public seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Speakers who sign up online in advance <b><i>must check in with a member of School Board Services upon arrival</i></b> and will be prioritized by category based on the category of prioritization in which they fall:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Category 1:</b> Parent/legal guardian/student/employee</li> <li>○ <b>Category 2:</b> Orange County, Florida resident</li> <li>○ <b>Category 3:</b> Non-resident of Orange County, Florida* (<i>if speakers have not specified into which category they fall, the default category will be to non-resident of Orange County, Florida</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Day-Of Registration - 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.:</b> Members of School Board Services will be in the lobby to distribute Speaker Requests (yellow cards). Speaker Requests must be filled out legibly and completely.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.:</b> Speakers who sign up between 4:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. will be prioritized by category as set forth above but will speak <b><i>after</i></b> those who signed up using the online advanced registration.</li> <li>○ <b>4:46 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.:</b> Speaker Requests will be accepted in the lobby until <b>5:15 p.m.</b> Speaker Requests received <b><i>after</i></b> 4:45 p.m. will <b><i>not</i></b> be prioritized into categories and will be added in the order received.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If a speaker wishes to speak to more than one (1) item on the Consent Agenda and/or at a Public Hearing, <b>each item must be notated on the Speaker Request</b> and the speaker will have <b><i>up to three (3) minutes to speak on each item.</i></b></li> </ul>
<p><b>TIME ALLOTTED FOR SPEAKERS DURING AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are between one (1) and ten (10) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to three (3) minutes to speak.</b></li> <li>• If there are between eleven (11) and twenty (20) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to two (2) minutes to speak.</b></li> <li>• If there are more than twenty (21+) speakers, each speaker will be given <b>up to one (1) minute to speak.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>LIVESTREAMING</b></p>	<p>The regular School Board meeting during which Agenda Public Comment is heard will be livestreamed.</p>
<p><b>PLACEMENT ON AGENDA</b></p>	<p>The Chair will invite those who wish to speak to an item on the agenda during the course of the meeting.</p>
<p><b>TOPICS</b></p>	<p>Speakers are to remain on the topic(s) of the particular agenda item(s) to which they have signed up to speak.</p>
<p><b>NO TELEPHONIC OPTION</b></p>	<p>There will be no option for speakers to call in using the telephonic option during the Agenda Public Comment Period.</p>

### District Associations/Student Council Reports

On a regular School Board Meeting agenda, in Section 2, an item for “District Associations/Student Council Reports” has been added. A designated representative from each of the bargaining units (CTA for instructional employees and OESPA for education support professionals),<sup>^</sup> the Orange County Association of School Administrators (OCASA), and the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council will each be allotted up to three (3) minutes to provide a report to the School Board on topics relevant to public education within OCPS. ***Issues that have been or could be raised at the bargaining table as mandatory subjects of bargaining or permissive subjects of bargaining may not be addressed. (See Policy BEDH and §447.309(1), F. S.)***