

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT
BOARD CONSENT AGENDA
REQUEST TO WAIVE, IN PART, PROVISIONS OF
THE FOLLOWING BOARD POLICY:
22-0008-000 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT
BOARD OPEN MEETINGS OR PUBLIC HEARINGS

AUGUST 10, 2020

Background Information:

There are in effect states of emergency for the United States and for the State of Maryland, relating to the COVID-19 virus.

Discussion:

As a result of the states of emergency referred to above and resulting health risks, the Superintendent recommends that the Board waive, in part, the policy relating to public participation at Board open meetings or public hearings which is set forth below.

1. 22-0008-000 Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings

- a. This policy requires, in part, that public comment be permitted at board meetings. In-person public comment may not be logistically practical or possible for the Board meeting scheduled for August 10, 2020, due to the need to conduct a virtual meeting as a result of the states of emergency described above.
- b. This policy, at section 3.d., limits time for speakers to three minutes and for individuals representing groups to a total of five minutes per speaker. Due to the request for public comment to be submitted via e-mail in lieu of in-person verbal public comment, there is no word limit to the size of the written public comment.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board waive, for the August 10, 2020, Board meeting, the requirement that the Board receive in-person public comment. The Superintendent recommends that, in substitution for in-person public comment, the Board receive public comment via e-mail as more fully described in the attached notice.

The Superintendent further recommends that the Board waive, for the August 10, 2020, Board meeting, the requirement that the Board allow five minutes for the reading of public comment received by an individual on behalf of a group. Rather, the Superintendent recommends that the reading of all public comment submitted via e-mail be limited to three minutes for individual public comment as well as comment received by an individual on behalf of a group.

Attachments:

1. Current Board Policy 22-0008-000 [Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings](#)
2. Public Notice to Participate in Board of Education Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE TO PARTICIPATE IN BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2020

On August 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM, the Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be hosted virtually. The Audio Live Stream will be available on [HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM](https://www.hcps.org/boe/livestream).

Community members who wish to submit a public comment may do so by submitting comments in writing at [Contact Board of Education](#) no later than 12:00 Noon on Monday, August 10, 2020.

The following information must be provided in the contact form when submitting comments:

1. Emails must be marked, "Comment for August 10, 2020 Board Meeting"
2. First and last name
3. Email and phone number
4. Address

Important:

- Comments received by 12 Noon on August 10, 2020, will be read into the record during the public comment segment of the Business meeting.
- Comments received after the 12 Noon deadline will not be read into the record during the Business meeting.
- The Board expects that all comments will be submitted with the decorum and respect appropriate to the conduct of public business.
- Topics such as personnel matters, pending appeals and specific student disciplinary matters will not be read into the record.
- Disparaging comments, personal attacks, and inflammatory remarks about specific schools or personnel will not be read into the record.
- The Presiding Officer will not read a comment that does not conform to the rules of the Board regarding public comment.
- Comments must be of such length that they can be read in 3 minutes or less.
- Comments received by the Board that constitute commercial solicitations will not be read as public comment.
- All public comments submitted will be part of the records maintained by the Board office.
- Please be reminded that written comments submitted are considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

Please contact Teresa.Schmid@hcps.org if you have any questions about the Board of Education of Harford County Business Meeting on August 10, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. Thank you.