

POLICY TITLE: Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/14/1992	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 10/10/2022	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: 9/9/2002
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: School System Governance		

Purpose

The Board of Education of Harford County recognizes the need for members of the public to provide comments and opinions to the members of the Board regarding agenda items for designated meetings, on education in general, and in a manner that is consistent with the Board's ability to conduct business. To receive such information, the Board shall allow for Public Comment at each regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. In addition, the Board may grant additional time for Public Comment by groups recognized by Harford County Public Schools (i.e.- PTAs, unions, and other school system stakeholders). From time to time, the Board may also establish special purpose Public Hearings for members of the public comment separate and apart from regularly scheduled meetings of the Board.

1. Public Attendance and Participation

- a) At any open session of the Board of Education of Harford County (whether a meeting or hearing) the general public is invited to attend, observe and to participate.
- b) Public participation at open meetings of the Board of Education is encouraged and welcomed during the Public Comment section of the agenda. Public participation may be in person or virtual.

2. Disruptive Conduct

- a) Members of the general public have the right to attend open sessions of public bodies. A public body may remove or cause removal of any person or persons from an open session upon a determination by the presiding officer of the public body that the person's behavior is disruptive to the session and interferes with the public body's ability to conduct business.
- b) A person attending an open session of the Board of Education of Harford County may not bring into the meeting demonstrative items such as placards, signs, or banners. In addition, a person attending an open session of the Board may not bring any item into the meeting that may disrupt the session or interfere with the right of members of the public to attend and to observe the session.

c) Presiding Officer Authorities

- (1) The presiding officer may order any person who persists in conduct