

BOARD POLICY

Descriptive Code: BCBI/KCA

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT
BOARD MEETINGS**

Date: September 18, 2006

Although Georgia law does not require public participation in Board of Education meetings, the Board can best serve its constituents through ongoing exchanges of information and ideas.

All regular and duly called meetings of the Columbia County Board of Education shall be open to the public for observation and participation under the following circumstances:

1. Citizens desiring to address the Board about a specific topic may register at the beginning of each meeting (See CCBOE Form BCBI/KCA *July 2006*. Each speaker will be permitted three minutes to make his/her presentation. If a group desires to speak, one person must be designated to speak for the group. The Board of Education will not respond to presentations at the time of the meeting but will give direction to the Superintendent for follow-up response.
2. System employees will not be permitted to address the Board regarding their personal employment issues under public participation. State law and local Board policies and procedures provide the appropriate process for employee complaints/grievances (See Policy/Procedure GAE, Complaints and Grievances). Employees may address non-employment issues just as any other citizen.
3. While citizens may use their allotted time to express concerns and opinions, the Board will not permit anyone to become personally abusive of individual Board members or Board employees.
4. When issues arise that stimulate high community interest, the Board may schedule special meetings specifically to invite public comment. In those circumstances, the Board will establish special guidelines for participation.

REFERENCE: POLICY/PROCEDURE GAE

PROCEDURE: BCBI (NO) KCA (NO)

ADOPTED: 2/9/93

REVISED: 8/24/93, 10/1/97, 8/10/99, 4/10/01

Columbia County Board of Education

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUEST

*Persons desiring to speak before the Board during **Public Participation** **MUST** submit this form completed in full to the Board Secretary **PRIOR** to the start of the meeting.*

*Participants will be limited to **three** minutes. If a group wishes to speak, one person must be designated to speak for the group.*

1) **NAME** _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

2) **ARE YOU AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM? (Check one)**

(Yes) (No) **If you checked no, go to Number 3.**

IS YOUR CONCERN RELATIVE TO YOUR EMPLOYMENT? (Check one)

(Yes) (No)

ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS A GRIEVANCE POLICY (SEE POLICY GAE ATTACHED)? (Check one)

(Yes) (No)

IF YOU ARE AWARE OF POLICY GAE, HAVE YOU ADDRESSED YOUR CONCERN WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR? (Check one)

(Yes) (No)

3) **ARE YOU REPRESENTING A GROUP? (Check one)**

(Yes) (No)

IF YES, WHAT GROUP DO YOU REPRESENT? _____

4) **TOPIC OF ADDRESS:**

SIGNATURE

The Board will not respond to your statement or question during the meeting, but the Superintendent will do so on behalf of the Board as soon as possible.

Revised July 2006