

BELLE CHASSE ACADEMY
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Individuals or groups requesting time on the agenda for a Board meeting are recognized at the beginning of each meeting. Individuals wishing to request time on the agenda must submit written notification to the Principal or the Secretary by noon on the Wednesday before the Board meeting. The request needs to state the matter to be addressed and the name of the person who will be making the comment. If the request is from a delegation or organization, comments before the Board are made by a spokesperson for the group. Each delegation shall select one of its members to be its speaker and provide the Principal or the Secretary of the Board with the name of the speaker. Persons making written requests for time on the agenda are given five minutes for their presentations.

Members who have not requested prior approval in writing may address the Board by submitting a written request to speak to the Secretary no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled meeting time. In this case, speakers may address the Board for up to five minutes.

Additionally, public comment period shall be held before any vote is taken on an agenda item. The comment period shall precede the vote on each agenda item. Concerns and public comments shall be limited to five minutes unless the time is waived by the majority of the Board members present. Comments by speakers during this period shall be strictly limited to the item before the Board.

Persons making comments should address the board and not the audience. Their comments should be relevant to the issue at hand and made in a courteous and temperate manner. People making comments are not allowed to engage in personal attacks or to provoke arguments with board members. In order to conduct orderly meetings in which participants can adequately hear Board proceedings, discussions among individuals in the audience are not permitted.

NOTE: So that comments can accurately be reflected in the minutes, persons making comments should state their name and indicate if they are a teacher, staff member or parent.