

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Code BCBI Issued October 12, 2009

All meetings of the board are open to the public. The board will take all actions openly as prescribed in the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. The board invites the general public, news media, and school staff to attend board meetings.

Individual(s) or group(s) desiring to appear before the board will notify the chairperson of his/her desire to do so and of his/her topic and supportive material as early as possible, but **NO LATER THAN NOON** on the day of the meeting by completing the public participation request form. The individual(s) or group(s) requesting to appear before the board should explore all administrative avenues of the matter prior to his/her requests to address the board.

The public participation request form will be available at the reception desk and on-line on the district website: www.cherokee1.k12.sc.us

All information on the request form will be completed including name, organization or group representing (if applicable), mailing address, and telephone/contact number(s), and E-mail address (if applicable). The request should also briefly describe the topic or matter to be discussed and copies of any supporting materials to be shared with board members should be attached.

A public participation period will be held during regularly scheduled board meetings, not to exceed 30 minutes, and will be open to individual(s) or group(s) with approved submitted public participation request forms. Presentation of the topic or matter during the meeting should be brief and concise as possible, not to exceed three (3) minutes. Persons addressing the board must do the following:

- Confine their comments to matters germane to the business of the board, i.e., district and school-related topics
- Refrain from making personal complaints against or using individual names of district employees or students
- Refrain from words or statements which, from their usual construction and common acceptance, are construed as insults and/or tend to breach the peace or incite violence
- Refrain from making comments regarding any pending student or employee discipline or grievance matters
- Refrain from profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, or other breach of respect

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The board chair maintains the right to limit or extend the time for speakers. The board will inform the individual(s) or group(s) making the request when the public participation request is granted. At the request of the board chair or other presiding officer, an individual who violates the expectations of the board during public participation will cease speaking and return to his/her seat quietly or leave the board room. The board will receive the comments as information only and are not required to take any action.

The board is committed to compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act as well as all other federal and state laws which regulate or impinge on board actions and policy.

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 30-4-10, et. Seq. – Freedom of Information Act

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

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Please complete the following form in its entirety and attach any supporting materials to be shared with board members.

I request to speak during the public participation portion of the next regularly scheduled board meeting on _____.

I will have the ability to address those present, but understand that this will not be a question and answer format (and will adhere to the terms of this policy?).

Date: _____ Time: _____

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone/Contact #: _____

Topic to be discussed: _____

Please attach any supporting documentation or materials to be shared with board members.