

Date/Time Received: _____
Received by: _____

The Gilmer County Board of Education ("Board") encourages Gilmer County citizens to be involved in public education. To facilitate this involvement, the Board sets aside time for public comments at each regular monthly meeting. Individuals wishing to speak must complete and submit the following request to the Board office via: fax, email, or in person no later than 9:00 am on the day of the Board meeting.

**GILMER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUEST
(BCBI-E(1))**

Name:

Address:

Topic to be addressed:

Group being represented (if any):

RULES OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

These procedures are in accordance with Policy BCBI and provide the Rules of Conduct, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-58, for all Board meetings.

All attendees shall remember that while the meetings are open to the public, the purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the school system and members of the public are invited to participate only as allowed by Board policy and these procedures.

1. It is the request of the Board that in consideration of the students, staff, parents and other citizens attending, members of the public address their remarks to the Board of Education through the Board Chair. For the same reasons, the Board would request that speakers, members of the audience and board members be civil, avoid profanity and not use abusive language.
2. Signs, flags, and banners are prohibited inside the Board meeting room.
3. Each member of the public participating in public comment will be given no more than three minutes to speak. The Board or its Chair may limit further the total time allocated for public participation as well as further limit the length of individual comments during public participation at its discretion for the purpose of the efficient operation of the business of the meeting.
4. To allow the Board to receive input from as many stakeholders as possible, individuals who speak during the Public Comment period one monthly may only speak at the next month's meeting if there is space available AND THE INDIVIDUAL IS SPEAKING ON ANOTHER TOPIC.
5. Only residents of the School District, representatives of businesses or organizations located in the District, parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the District, or school system employees may address the Board during public participation. No individual or group will be retaliated against, in any manner whatsoever, for speaking during public participation.

6. The Board requests that any group or organization appoint a single representative to address the Board.
7. Speakers may bring printed and other supporting materials. These materials should be given to the Superintendent or Board Chair and can be distributed to the other board members.
8. All speakers shall address the Board by first stating their names. All remarks shall be made to the Board as a body and addressed through the Chair. Remarks shall not be addressed to individual Board members.
9. Issues involving individual employees or individual students and pending litigation are not subjects for public participation. Where appropriate, the public is urged to follow other resolution processes set forth in Board policy or available at individual schools, where those processes are clearly designed to address the issue to be raised. It should be noted again that public participation is not designed for this purpose and the Board will not take action based on public participation.
10. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks civil. The use of obscene, profane, vulgar, physically threatening or abusive remarks will not be allowed. Loud and boisterous conduct or comments by speakers or members of the audience are not allowed
11. The Board will not respond to comments made by the speaker during public participation unless a member of the Board chooses to ask a question. Speakers should remain at the microphone while answering questions.

By reading and acknowledging acceptance prior to speaking during public participation, speakers attest that they understand and will abide by these procedures. The Chair of the Board is responsible for enforcing these procedures. Those attending a meeting or speaking during public participation who violate these procedures will be warned by the Chair. A continued violation may result in a speaker being asked to sit down. If any person attending a meeting refuses to follow these rules disrupting the meeting, they will be asked to leave and if they refuse, be escorted from the meeting room. Such serious or repeated violations of the rules of conduct may result in the individual being prohibited from speaking during a board meeting for an appropriate period of time. Any attendee violating the laws of the State while on District property or attending a meeting of the Board shall be subject to arrest by law enforcement.

Printed Name

Date

Signature