



Public Comment at Board Meetings

Bear Creek Community Charter School's Board of Trustees recognizes the value of public input and the importance of designating time for public comment during open Board meetings, as well as the importance of diverse viewpoints. This policy addresses the right of the public to comment at open Board meetings and the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

Copies of the agenda, which include a listing of each matter of business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting, shall be made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

The purpose of public comment at Board meetings is to allow the Board to learn the thoughts of the public prior to Board deliberation and official action. Although the public comment period of the meeting is not a question-and-answer session between the public and the Board, the Board may direct staff to follow up and address public inquiries in a reasonably prompt manner.

An opportunity for local residents and taxpayers, employees, students and parents to provide comments on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Board, shall be provided as designated on the Board meeting agenda and in compliance with state and federal law, policy or school procedures. The presiding officer of each meeting may expand the opportunity to provide public comment to others when deemed necessary to inform the Board.

The Board requires that public comment on agenda items be made at the beginning of each meeting. If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.

The Board shall provide a second public comment period, after the items for action or deliberation have been completed, to comment on items of concern or other matters involving the School.

An individual's public comment may be interrupted or terminated, such as when the individual's commentary is in clear violation of law or School policy, including but not limited to the following:

1. Disclosure of confidential personal information regarding students or staff.
2. Speech that traditionally has not been protected under the First Amendment, such as obscenity, defamation and speech integral to criminal conduct.
3. Speech that is profane.
4. Sexual harassment, racial, ethnic, religious or nationality intimidation towards an individual or individuals in the school community.

5. Speech that constitutes true threats such as inciting imminent lawless action or subjecting individuals to fear of violence.
6. Speech that does not concern matters that may come before the Board for deliberation or official action.

All individuals wishing to comment during the Board meeting shall sign in with the Board Secretary or his/her designee prior to the start of the meeting and provide their name, their address of residence, and their group affiliation, if applicable.

Individuals shall wait to be recognized by the presiding officer before commenting and must direct all comments to the Board. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer, no participant may address or question school directors individual, school staff, or other meeting participants.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes, and participants may not cede their time to other individuals. No individual may speak more than once on the same topic in either public comment section.

The presiding officer and the Board secretary have the authority to:

Interrupt an individual to warn the commenter that the statement is too lengthy, or conduct is otherwise in violation of this policy.

After warning, terminate the individual's opportunity to comment when the conduct continues and is in violation of this policy.

Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the individual's conduct is otherwise in violation of this policy.

Request an individual to leave the meeting when that person's conduct is otherwise in violation of this policy. If the individual refuses to leave the meeting, request the assistance of school security personnel or law enforcement to remove the disorderly person to enable the Board to proceed with the orderly operation of the meeting.

Waive the Board's rules regarding public comment with the approval of a majority of those Trustees present and voting.

The following information regarding public comment is required to appear in the official minutes of each open Board meeting:

1. The names of all individuals who appeared before the Board and offered public comment.
2. The subject of their testimony.



Use of Recording Devices by the General Public

Bear Creek Community Charter School's Board of Trustees recognizes the value of public input and the importance of designating time for public comment during open Board meetings. This policy addresses the right of the public to utilize recording devices during open Board meetings and the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

All participants attending a public meeting should presume that the meeting is being recorded.

Pursuant to the Sunshine Act, a person attending a Board of Trustees meeting of Bear Creek Community Charter School ("Board" or "Board Meeting"), where such meeting is open to the public, may use recording devices to record all or a portion of the meeting. However, pursuant to the Sunshine Act, the Board adopts the following regulations for the purpose of maintaining order at public meetings.

Use of recording devices may not interfere with, obstruct, or disrupt the orderly transaction of business at any meeting. Any individual or group desiring to audio or video record a public Board meeting must do so in a manner not likely to disrupt the meeting and comply with the following:

1. Set up all video recording equipment prior to the commencement of the Board meeting or in a manner that will not disrupt the meeting. Microphones and recording devices may not be placed on the Board table or tables reserved for use by the staff.
2. Sit or stand in the public meeting area with a recording device or camera, or rest the camera on a tripod located in the rear of the Board's meeting room, so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Video recording equipment, or those individuals holding video recording equipment, must be positioned so that they do not interfere with audience members who are entering, leaving, viewing and/or listening to the meeting, or those audience members desirous of making comments to the Board.
3. Comply with any reasonable request made by the presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order at the meeting.

The Board will not stop its meeting or any discussions during the meeting, in order for individuals to change video or audio tapes or otherwise adjust their recording equipment.

Board of Trustees policy approved May 1, 2025.