

DuBois Integrity Academy Governing Board

Public Comment Policy

Adopted

February 23, 2021

Purpose

The DuBois Integrity Academy Governing Board (Board) welcomes public comment at its meetings and is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for members of the public to participate. The purpose of this policy is to address how participation will be handled, both in person and from a remote location by zoom if under emergency provisions.

Policy

The Board encourages members of the public to offer comments and express opinions on both specific actions to be taken by the Board, as well as any other issue directly related to the operation of the School.

Procedure

Individuals are strongly encouraged to follow school grievance policies and discuss their comments and concerns with appropriate school staff members, administrators, and/or Board members before directing such comments to the entire Board during a meeting.

Each Board meeting agenda shall have a time designated for “public comment”. The total time for public comment shall not exceed twenty-one (21) minutes. Each individual public comment will be limited to 3 minutes.

Directions to the Public Regarding Public Comment

Brief direction on Public Comment and public conduct should be written on the top of all Board agendas and on any electronic viewing. It should state the following:

“Reminder to parents and non-board members attending board meetings: The board meeting is structured for the board to conduct business in a timely manner. The Public Comment portion of the agenda allows an opportunity for members of the public to briefly express any comments. Anyone wishing to speak must sign in or contact the Executive Director’s office to sign up. Please refrain from entering into board business and discussion without being recognized to do so.

Public Comment is a period for the public to bring issues or concerns to the Board’s attention, however it is not a period for the Board to engage in a conversation or question and answer session with the public. Any concerns or issues brought forward will be investigated, directed to the appropriate committee for discussion, and/or handled by the Board Chair after the Board meeting.”

Also, prior to the Public Comment period of a board meeting, provided there is anyone wishing to speak, oral direction should be given to the public regarding their conduct and the purpose of the Public Comment period of the Board meeting.

In-person participants

All in-person individuals must sign up to speak during public comment. To be recognized by the Board Chair, an individual must provide their name. It is encouraged that those wishing to speak in person contact the Executive Director prior to the board meeting, so that they can secure a one of the seven (7) spots available for public comment.

The total time for any individual to present shall not exceed three (3) minutes (depending upon the number of speakers), unless the Board Chair or Board grants additional time either formally or informally. Individuals will be called in the order that they either signed up or contacted the Executive Director.

The Board Chair will then announce the individual's name at the appropriate time during the meeting. Each individual will be granted three (3) minutes to make his or her presentation. If requested, the Board Chair or Board may grant additional time to individuals, circumstances permitting.

Any individual may raise an issue during public comment in an unencumbered manner and request that it be placed on a future agenda. No action can be taken by the Board until such item has been included on an agenda in accordance with Georgia's Open Meeting Law

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Special Accommodations for Public Comment

Members of the public who require special accommodations to be able to attend the Board meeting should contact the Executive Director or the specific contact person designated on the agenda for that meeting, at least Seventy-Two (72) hours prior to the meeting to make appropriate arrangements for attending the meeting.

Other Public Engagement

In addition to the above, any Board member may ask a member of the public present to answer brief questions or make comments on an agenda item under discussion in order to gather information before deliberating on a decision.

