



## Public Comment Policy

**Purpose: To define the process by which the public may make comments or provide feedback at a board meeting.**

The School Board of Directors complies with the NC Open Meetings Law, which allows public comments at board meetings at the discretion of Voyager's Board of Directors. Voyager Board of Directors welcomes public comments during open board meetings. This policy outlines the process for how public comments will be handled at open board meetings.

Voyager's Board generally allows public comments for a total of 15 minutes at the beginning of each open board meeting. Each person may speak for 3 minutes on either non-agenda or agenda items. Each speaker must sign up in advance by emailing the Board's Secretary more than 24 hours in advance of the board meeting by submitting their name, organization, and topic to be discussed. Speakers will be assigned spots on a first come first serve basis. The Board may allow for a walk-in speaker comment at its sole discretion. Notwithstanding the above, the Board reserves the right to modify or eliminate time for public comment at any open board meeting.

Speakers should present themselves in a professional manner while speaking at the open board meetings, and shall act in a courteous and responsible manner. If the speaker failed to abide as such, the speaker will be asked to leave the meeting. Under North Carolina Law (General Statute, N.C.G.S. § 143-318.17), there can be legal consequences for individuals who do not adhere to public meeting protocol. *"A person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting and who, upon being directed to leave the meeting by the presiding officer, willfully refuses to leave the meeting is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."* (1979, c.655, s.1; 1993, c.539, s.1028; 1994, Ex. Sess., c.24, s.14(c).) Adopted April 16, 2013. Speakers may not specifically speak about any individual student, teacher, staff member or board member and they may not engage in any personal attacks. Generally, the Board does not respond to any public comments.

Speakers may request special permission to conduct a presentation to the board if they would like to have an extended time to speak. The speaker must email the Board's Secretary and request the specific amount of time needed and the topic to be presented. The request shall be considered by the Board Chair, and shall either be approved or denied in the discretion of the Chair.