

Descriptor Term: Public Participation at School Board Meetings	Descriptor No: AD BO1	Effective Date: January 2024
	Revised:	

1 Pursuant to Board Policy 1.401, any public meeting of the Murfreesboro City Schools Board
2 of Education with actionable items on the agenda will have fifteen (15) minutes set aside at the
3 beginning of the meeting for public comment. Individuals wishing to make a public comment
4 will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak with respect to an action item on the agenda for the
5 meeting subject to the following:

- 6 • All comments are restricted to comments on action items on the agenda for the meeting.
- 7 • The Chair shall have the authority to declare an individual out of order, if after an initial
8 warning, an individual continues to speak on a topic that is unrelated to an action item on
9 the agenda.
- 10 • The Chair shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who
11 violates state law or does not adhere to board rules.

12 Individuals attending board meetings may not engage in heckling, shouting, verbal outburst,
13 or any other behavior that prevents the Board from conducting School Board business. Personal
14 cell phone conversations while in the room where the Board meetings are being conducted are
15 not permitted. Electronic devices are requested to be silenced to avoid disruption of the
16 proceedings.

17 In the interest of preserving individual privacy and due process rights, comments and
18 complaints regarding individual students should be directed to the Director of Schools or
19 designee pursuant to the district’s complaint policies and procedures.

20 If you wish to address the Board during the public comment period, you must sign up at least
21 six (6) hours prior to the meeting start time by:

- 22 • Sending an e-mail to lisa.vanleave@cityschools.net with this completed form or an e-
23 mail with your name/phone number/address and the action on which you are wishing to
24 speak and whether you are speaking in support or against the action; OR
- 25 • Calling the Office of the Director of Schools at 615-893-2313, Ext. 10010, before the
26 meeting with the request to speak and your name/phone number/address and the action
27 on which you are wishing to speak and whether you are speaking in support or against the
28 action.

29 Speakers will be recognized in the order their request was received. Speakers may not yield
30 remaining time to other speakers.

31 **Accommodating Public Comment**

32 To ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to speak, any person with a disability who
33 needs accommodation to provide public comment is requested to contact the office of the
34 Director of Schools at least six hours before the regularly scheduled board meeting. Unless
35 deemed an accommodation, written comments will not be accepted or read aloud during the
36 public comment period of the school board meeting. Individuals may share their written
37 comments directly with Board members.