

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR**

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

*(EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2020, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)*

*Updated April 20, 2021*

Public comment is one of the opportunities the Board provides to hear the views and receive the advice of community members. The members of the Board appreciate hearing from interested citizens. Since March 2020, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, procedures for public comment were temporarily changed as the Board shifted to a virtual meeting format. Members of the public were asked to submit their comments in writing to the Board for distribution to all members.

**Starting with its September 29, 2020, meeting, the Board will conduct the public comment portion of the meeting by allowing members of the public to call in by phone.** A person or stakeholder group representative who wishes to address the Board must register with the Office of the Board of Education by completing and submitting a [BOARD MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT – Registration Form](#). Registration will open one week prior to the Board meeting date and close at 3 p.m. on the day before the meeting.

**Sign-up for public comment is limited to 10 speakers, and speakers will be selected using an electronic random selection process from all registration submissions received within the designated time frame outlined above.** If selected, participants will receive a notice to confirm your registration, along with the call-in number, passcode to join the meeting, and public comment guidelines and procedures. Prior to calling the first speaker, the Board chair will again explain these meeting procedures for the benefit of the viewing public. The Chair will then call on speakers in order of their registration selection. No speaker substitutions will be allowed.

All comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Time will be monitored by staff. At the end of the 3-minute period, speakers will be released from the call/meeting. Speakers may also be released from the call/meeting if they address specific student or employee matters or comment on matters unrelated to public education in Baltimore County.

Although speakers are encouraged to provide public input on policies, programs, and practices within the purview of the Board and the school system, it is not the proper forum to address specific student or employee matters, matters under appeal, or to comment on matters unrelated to public education in Baltimore County. The Board encourages everyone to utilize existing dispute resolution processes, as appropriate. Lastly, inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of the meeting will be deemed out of order.

If not selected to provide oral public comment during the Board meeting, persons are encouraged to submit their comments to the Board members via e-mail to [boe@bcps.org](mailto:boe@bcps.org).