



Board Governance Policy 1.4

Liberty STEAM Charter Policy for Public Participation in Board Meetings

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for public participation in board meetings.

The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings. The board conducts meetings for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the charter school. The meetings are not public forum meetings but are meetings held in public. Orderly conduct of a meeting does not permit spontaneous discussion from the audience. Regular, special and emergency meetings are open to the general public, news media and school staff. All persons who wish to participate must do so through established procedures. These procedures are designed to encourage participation and ensure the orderly management of the meetings. The board is committed to compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act as well as all other federal and state laws which regulate or affect board actions and policy.

Agenda

In order that the board may fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, citizens wanting an item to be placed on the agenda for a specific board meeting should direct requests to the executive director or board chairman. A citizen must submit a written request for an item to be placed on the agenda no later than 5:00 p.m. five days prior to a scheduled meeting of the board. That request will state the name of the individual or group submitting the request, the address, the purpose of the request, and the topic to be addressed. The chairman of the board will introduce speakers who have previously submitted a request to the board at the appropriate time during the agenda and invite them to make comments on agenda topics. Persons addressing the board will be expected to limit their remarks to five minutes or less, unless otherwise approved by the board. Approval can be made by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Speakers may offer objective comments on school operations and programs that concern them. While public comment about board actions will be permitted, the board will not permit in public session any expression of personal complaints about school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system.

Public Participation

The board will allocate 15 minutes at the outset of each regular meeting for the public to address the board. The chairman reserves the right to limit discussion of same topic issues in an effort to provide individuals the opportunity to be heard on a variety of topics. Public participation will not exceed three minutes for each individual unless waived by a two-thirds majority vote of the board members present. Consideration may be given for a public hearing for gaining input on critical issues. Speakers may offer objective comments on school operations and programs that concern them. The board will not permit in public session any expression of personal complaints about individual school personnel or any other

person connected with the school. Individuals interested in addressing the board during public participation have two options: either 1) in person or 2) by proxy via the secretary of the board. For the first option, participants may complete and submit a public participation card in person during the 30-minute time window leading up to the board being called to order. The second option is reserved for individuals who would like a statement to be read by the board secretary and must be submitted in writing to the board secretary or executive director no later than close of business on the day preceding scheduled board meetings. All participants will receive a written response from the board chairman within 7 days.

Adopted: 5-18-2020

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended: Section 30-4-10, et seq. - South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.