

Rules of Attendee Conduct for Public Meetings

(as amended)

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-58, these Rules of Attendee Conduct for Public Meetings are adopted by the Board in compliance with law to specifically address expectations for public conduct at Board meetings and to set forth consequences for failure to adhere to such expectations. In addition to the below, *see Board Policy BCBI for information generally addressing public participation in Board Meetings.*

Expectations

The requirement that all meetings of the Board “shall be open to the public” does not prevent governing bodies from maintaining order at meetings. The Board Chairman has inherent authority to keep order and to impose reasonable restrictions for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting.

Members of the public will strive to conduct themselves in ways that demonstrate mutual respect, fair play, and orderly decorum. In particular, the District expects attendees will treat the Board, Cobb County School District employees, and other citizens with respect and courtesy, even when expressing disagreement, concern, or criticism about any issue or incident. As children have access to meetings and meeting broadcasts/recordings, the public is advised that the content of these meetings should be appropriate for all ages.

The Board does not allow:

- Use or display of language or gestures that are abusive, obscene, profane, vulgar, defamatory, or slanderous
- Blocking ingress or egress of any person
- Threats
- Jeers, shouting, disruptive noises, or any other means an attendee may use to disrupt the meeting

Any attendee(s) disrupting or attempting to disrupt the meeting in any manner will be addressed. No attendee shall endanger others by acts of violence or abusive conduct. No attendee shall cause, provoke, or engage in any physical confrontation, fight, brawl, or riotous conduct so as to endanger the life, limb, health, or property of another. Any attendee(s) with signage that blocks or may block the view of others will be addressed.

Remedial Action

Should any member of the public fail to abide by these Rules, the Board Chair or presiding Board member may take any of the following actions:

1. Remind the offender of the expectations.
2. Issue a verbal warning or direction.
3. Recess or adjourn the meeting for a period until order may be restored.
4. If a public attendee willfully and actually disrupts the meeting so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, such person shall be subject to removal. In such case, the Board may, in consultation with the Board Attorney, issue a written notice prohibiting the attendee from defined actions, such as meeting attendance, for up to sixty (60) days.
5. Involve law enforcement in any potential violation of law, including but not limited to state and local laws addressing disorderly conduct.

6. Remove the Board to another location to complete the meeting or a portion of the meeting, while projecting the image and audio of the Board meeting to the public. As a general rule, the Board will attempt another method or methods to resolve the issue prior to employing this action.
7. Any other action in compliance with law to ensure the orderly conduct of school business during Board meetings.

Depending on the circumstances, the Board may take the above action in any order and is not bound to follow each step chronologically.