

1.9 COMMUNITY COMMENT GUIDELINES

Scholars Academy welcomes the public to Board meetings. Board meetings are carefully orchestrated in order to perform the business of the school in the most timely and efficient manner. The Board welcomes comments from the community, but balances the desire to hear comments with the need to run an effective meeting. Therefore, the Board has established the following guidelines to govern Community Comments:

General: The Scholars Academy is a North Carolina Charter School and, as such, operates under the open meeting laws of the state. The public is welcome to attend Board meetings and each person has an opportunity to speak to the Board during the Community Comments time on the agenda.

Disallowed Discussion Topics: The Board cannot hear comments that deal with the following issues:

Topics of a personal nature that may conflict with privacy laws, HIPAA or other issues that deal with the confidentiality of personal information; and topics regarding a grievance.¹

The Board will not allow a speaker to complete their comment if, in the sole discretion of the Board, the person is speaking on subjects that are not allowed.

The Board shall not respond to Community Comments or enter into dialogue with the Community Comment speaker during the Board Meeting.

Time Limit: Each speaker is given 3 minutes for their comments. The speaker will be given a warning when 1 minute remains and when 30 seconds remain and will be asked to cease their comments at the 3 minute mark. Such time limit shall be strictly enforced by the Board.

Conveying time to other speakers: no one will be allowed to yield his/her time to another speaker.

Adopted: August 30, 2010

¹ A formal Grievance Policy has been adopted by Scholars Academy and is available on the school website and in this Manual. Public complaints, conflicts or issues that are considered (in the sole discretion of the Board) to be a "grievance" under the Grievance Policy shall not be heard by the Board during the Community Comments portion of the Board meeting. All "grievances" shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of the Grievance Policy with no exceptions.