

Exhibit A

Eastern Panhandle Preparatory Academy

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Oral communications from persons other than members of the Governing Board ("Board") of Eastern Panhandle Preparatory Academy ("School") on matters before the Board or of interest to the Board shall be encouraged, within reasonable limitations, and shall be received at regular Board meetings subject to the following procedures:

1. A Request to Speak Form along with this Policy shall be available at each Board meeting, on the School's website, and at the School office. The form shall provide for the person's name, address, the organization the person represents, and the item(s) on which the person requests to speak.
2. A Request to Speak Form shall be submitted to the Secretary or any Board member prior to the convening of the Board meeting. The Secretary shall organize the requests in chronological order as received. The public may speak during the "Delegations" portion of the meeting.
3. The "Delegations" portion of the meeting shall be limited to 30 minutes, which may be extended at the chair's discretion. Unless otherwise permitted by the chair and agreed to by the Board, no person shall speak for more than three minutes and, at the prerogative of the chair, may be limited to one topic per meeting.
4. Unless otherwise permitted by the chair and agreed to by the Board, no more than three persons shall be permitted to speak on any single issue.
5. Any questions or suggested solutions pertaining to the quality of education in the School or other problems, which have not been resolved, shall be welcomed by the Board;
6. Matters currently under negotiation or litigation will not be discussed in public. Matters related to personnel or involving personally identifiable student information should be addressed in executive session.
7. No person, so speaking, shall make any reference to personalities, shall make derogatory statements concerning any individual or organization, or shall act in a disorderly manner. Further, the speaker may not deviate from the topic included on the Request to Speak Form. Any violation of this paragraph shall subject the speaker to immediate forfeiture of the floor and continued violation of this paragraph shall subject the speaker to expulsion from the meeting.

8. Recording equipment may be used in its ordinary manner and pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-9(b). However, any recording equipment should be silent, unobtrusive, self-contained, self-powered and not interfere with the ability of others present to hear, see, and participate in the proceedings. Persons recording all or portions of a Board or committee meeting should inform the chair prior to doing so.
9. "Delegations" are not a period of question and answer; speakers may only address the entire Board and may not ask questions of any individual Board member or School staff. The Board may respond immediately following a speaker, but it will keep comments on matters not on the Agenda limited to logistical matters and not deliberate on the matter raised. Some issues require research before an appropriate response can be made. If a full response is desired, particularly for complex issues, a letter of request to the Board is recommended with questions or concerns clearly stated.

References:

WV Code 6-9A

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