

Tillery Charter Academy Public Comment Policy
Approved: 3/25/2024

North Carolina Open Meetings Law:

Tillery Charter Academy conducts its School Board Meetings in conformance to the North Carolina Open Meetings Law (N.C. Statutes: Article 33C) (hereinafter referred to as "Open Meetings Law"). The Open Meetings Law, however, does not give members of the public the automatic right to speak or participate in an official meeting. In fact, if a person interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting, the presiding officer may direct that person to leave the meeting. If that happens and the disruptive person refuses to leave, he may be charged with a misdemeanor. N.C.G.S. § 143-318.17.

Public Comment Notice:

Tillery Charter Academy will accept comments from the public at every general board meeting. Individuals from the public who wish to make a public comment shall sign up at least 24 hours in advance of a general board meeting, with no exceptions. The school will make the sign-up form publicly available for all individuals.

Public Comment Procedure:

1. The board chair shall make "Public Comment" a part of the school's agenda at each general meeting.
2. The board chair shall collect all names from the public comment sign-up form 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Names shall be placed in the order they were received.
3. Requests for public comment will be made through a form located on the school's website. The request will require the topic of the public comment that is to be made.
4. The board chair will make aware to the public and the board of directors that public comment is limited to 3 minutes per individual for a maximum of 15 minutes per general board meeting.
5. The board chair or designee will be in charge of keeping time for public comment. Before public comment, a statement will be made regarding the policy and procedure. This comment will ensure that the public comment has followed proper procedure.

The board chair will then notify the public of the following:

- a. When time has expired for an individual, the board chair or designee will announce it and ask the individual speaking to stop.
- b. If the individual does not stop speaking, the board chair or designee will ask for a second time to stop.
- c. If the individual does not stop speaking after the second notice, the board chair will ask the individual to leave the meeting and will be considered disturbing and disrupting the meeting.

6. The board of directors shall not respond to any public comment and the board chair shall notify the public of this policy.

Guidelines for Public Comment:

Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person for a maximum of 15 minutes per general board meeting. When time has expired for an individual, the individual will be asked to stop speaking. If the individual does not stop speaking, the board chair will ask a second time. If the individual does not stop speaking after the second notice, the board chair will ask the individual to leave the board meeting. Board members shall not respond to any public comment, Please note that if a public comment has been classified as a grievance, you are directed to follow the grievance policy process in the parent handbook posted in the parent portal on the website.