

## **Public Comment Policy**

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Newberry Community School, Inc. (the “School”) aims to ensure smooth and orderly Board meetings while complying with Florida Law. This policy outlines procedures for public comment during Board meetings and committee meetings subject to Florida’s Sunshine Law.

### **1. Citizen’s Input: Addressing Board, Manner of Presentation, and Time Limit**

- Public comment is allowed on agenda items before the Board acts.
- The Board may separate public comment for agenda and non-agenda items.
- Comments are limited to three minutes, time may not be yielded to others. Time given to speakers may be altered by the Board Chair as conditions warrant.
- Only individuals who are recognized for public comment or acknowledged by the Chair may address the Board.
- The Board or staff is not obligated to respond to public comments during the meeting.
- No additional comments are allowed after the speaker’s time has elapsed.
- Visual aids may be used with prior review by the Board Secretary.

### **2. Order and Decorum During Board Meetings**

- The Board Chair maintains order and enforces this policy.
- Speakers may not engage in obscene acts or speech, threats, and/or disorderly conduct.
- Disruptive individuals may be removed from the meeting.
- In the absence of the Board Chair, the Vice Board Chair or another designee will assume these duties.

### **3. Cell Phones, Cameras, Video, Recording Devices**

- Cell phones must be silenced during public comments as well as the meetings.
- Recording devices should not interfere with the proceedings.

### **4. Consistency and Neutrality**

- This policy balances the public’s right to be heard with the Board’s need for orderly meetings.
- The policy will be applied consistently without favoring any viewpoint.

### **5. Definitions**

- Disorderly conduct: Acts intended to corrupt public morals, outrage public decency, or disrupt the meeting.
- Obscene: Material appealing to prurient interest, patently offensive, and lacking serious value.
- Threaten: Communication of intent to commit violence or create fear of violence.