

## Neuse Charter School Board of Directors

The North Carolina Open Meetings Law provides the public with a right of access to the meetings of a large number of government bodies at the state and local level in North Carolina. The law entitles you to notice of these meetings and gives you the ability to inspect and copy meeting minutes. For more detailed information about North Carolina open meetings law, please consult the North Carolina Open Government Coalition's Open Meetings Law Guide and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press's Open Government Guide: North Carolina.

The North Carolina Open Meetings Law gives "any person" the right to attend an official meeting of a public body, with exceptions for closed sessions. North Carolina law does not limit access to meetings to a specific category of people or a profession. **Anyone** may attend.

The right to attend official meetings does not include a right to comment or participate. As a matter of practice, however, public bodies may give the public an opportunity to speak at meetings. The presiding officer of a public body may direct a person to leave a meeting if he or she interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting. If the person creating a disturbance refuses to leave, the state may charge him or her with a misdemeanor.

### NCS Board Meeting's Public Comment Guidelines

The Neuse Charter School Board of Directors welcomes public comment during most regular meetings. Generally, Board members do not respond to public comments during the meeting. Board members regularly review letters and emails sent to the Board.

**Time** – Each speaker may speak for up to three minutes. Allotted time may not be transferred to another individual. The Board generally allows up to 10 minutes for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items at the beginning of meetings. For agenda items, if there are a large number of speakers, the Board may limit the total time for comment and/or may reduce the time allotted for each speaker.

**Topics** –All comments should address a matter related to Neuse Charter School. The Board will not hear public comment that involves a complaint about an individual staff member, a personnel action, a student disciplinary matter, a complaint about an individual student, or pending litigation. Such matters should be reduced to writing and sent to the Board Chair.

**Decorum** – The Board expects that each speaker will be courteous, modeling for our students how one can respectfully disagree with others' views. Speakers will address their comments to the entire Board and not to one individual Board member, nor to the Executive Director, to a staff member, nor to the audience. Speakers will not engage in personal attacks.

Any person who would like an interpreter to assist them in providing public comment and any person with a disability who needs accommodation to provide public comment should notify the front desk at least three business days in advance of a meeting to request assistance.

Written Comments – If a speaker would like to present written comments to the Board, eleven copies should be provided.