

Meetings of the Thomaston-Upson County Board of Education are structured to allow the Board to conduct its public business. Meetings of the Board are open to the public, but are not to be confused with public forums. When time permits, the Board of Education as a matter of general operating procedure offers an opportunity for citizens of the school district to address the Board in open session. The following rules shall be adhered to:

1. To be placed on the agenda, individuals must request in writing at least by noon Thursday prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Board, that they be allowed to address the Board. The request must state clearly the topic or issue to be addressed.
2. Each person whose name is placed on the agenda will be given 5 minutes, to make their comments, but the total time allotted to citizen participation will be limited to 30 minutes.
3. Where several citizens wish to address the same topic or issue, the Board reserves the right to further limit discussions should they become repetitive.
4. While citizens may use their allotted time to take serious issue with Board decisions, the Board will not permit anyone to become personally abusive of individual board members or board employees.
5. When issues arise that stimulate high community interest, the Board may schedule special meetings specifically to invite public comment. In those circumstances, the Board will establish special guidelines for participation.
6. The Board will not respond to comments or questions posed by citizens in their presentations, but will take those comments and questions under advisement.
7. The Board reserves the right to determine the number of times it will re-visit any given issue. The Board of Education, by majority vote, may extend or further limit the time allotted for citizen participation.

When citizens address the Board with specific requests or concerns the Board will reply with a written response to the person or group involved.