

Board Statement of Belief

The Board of School Trustees for the North Montgomery Community School Corporation value and hold dear the input from our community's patrons. The names, email addresses, phone numbers and voice mailboxes of all administrators, Board members, and teachers will be readily available to our public via our school system's web page, individual school's web pages, mailings, and/or by contacting the Central Office or individual school. Through these numerous methods of communication, it is hoped that our school patrons can find open communication between the patron and the school personnel to resolve any concern or conflict. Also, the Board invites positive comments via these various methods of communicating with school personnel.

Individual Private Concerns Protocol:

While the Board of School Trustees (Board) for the North Montgomery Community School Corporation is interested in considering viewpoints and suggestions from patrons in the school district that will improve and enhance the educational program, official Board meetings are the necessary statutory venue for conducting official school business and acting on matters affecting the overall responsibilities of the corporation. Therefore, patrons are urged to deal with individual concerns by directly contacting the appropriate individual school employee and/or the appropriate building level administrator in resolving private matters of personal concern.

When individuals with personal concerns have followed the natural chain-of-command through to the superintendent or his/her designee and problems still exist, it is appropriate for patrons to contact their representative(s) on the Board to air concerns. If a Board member believes the matter warrants full Board examination, then the individual may be invited to speak before the Board in open session or executive session, whichever may be appropriate. The Board president has the right to limit all comments in such cases to a finite number of minutes and also has the right to limit the number of speakers on a given topic of individual concern. The person speaking will give their name, address, and reason for speaking before beginning their allotted time.

Public Input Is Solicited from the Board Protocol:

From time to time, the Board may solicit public input or testimony on particular items of interest to the school community. In these cases, patrons will be asked to speak on a given subject for a pre-determined time allotment. The Board president, in consultation with the other Board members and the Superintendent, will determine the number of speakers and time allotment allowed to speak on a given topic. All speakers must be residents of the school district and state their name, address before addressing the Board.

Items of General Interest to the School Corporation Protocol:

From time to time, patrons may want the Board to consider certain items that may be deemed appropriate for full Board discussion and possible action by the Board at regular Board meetings. These may include items of general interest to the school community vs. specific individual interest. Patrons wishing to address the Board in this regard should contact the Board President prior to the start of the scheduled Board meeting to have the item or person placed on the agenda. The Board President will make the final determination as to whether a person may speak and how long he/she will be allowed to speak. If a person is allowed to speak on said item, he/she will state their full name, address, and reason for speaking before beginning.

Personnel Items Protocol:

Due to potential litigation by entertaining comments about personnel issues in open public meetings, the Board will not provide a public venue to discuss personnel issues. If the Board wishes to hear testimony from patrons in executive session about personnel matters, the Board will have the right to engage in such activities as deemed legal and appropriate. At no time are any of these executive sessions or comments made in these executive sessions to become public record. When patrons are invited to give testimony in executive session, the Board has a right to determine the total number of individuals testifying or the number giving testimony at any given time and the length of time given each person testifying.

Board Rights:

The Board has sole authority and latitude to deny any patron the right to speak in open session or executive session for any reason deemed appropriate for the good of the school corporation.

At no time will speakers be allowed to use loud, obnoxious, abusive, derogatory, and/or profane language or actions in a public meeting or executive session. The Board president may ask for the removal of any disruptive member of the public for reasons deemed in the best interest of the school corporation for the above mentioned actions or behaviors.

All comments from speakers must be directed to the Board as a whole and not to individuals on the Board.

The Board president will have broad latitude in executing this policy as long as the intent of the policy is not being abused.