

VISITOR COMMENTS

The River Trails School District 26 Board of Education welcomes all residents to attend and participate in Board Meetings. In an effort to keep Board meetings to a reasonable length, we ask visitors to make statements at one or both of the allotted Visitor Comment sections listed on the agenda. Please complete the visitor comment card, submit completed cards to the Clerk of the Board and the President or a representative will read the comment aloud. It is requested that comments be kept at a reasonable length and no communication amongst the audience to be shared during the Visitor Comment section.

2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

For an overall minimum of 30 minutes during each regular and special open meeting, any person may comment to or ask questions of the Board (*public participation*), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. During public participation, there will be a 20-minute minimum total length of time for any one subject. When public participation takes less time than these minimums, it shall end.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to five minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period, the person may be allowed to speak for more than five minutes.
3. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the:
 - a. Shortening of the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak;
 - b. Expansion of the overall minimum of 30 minutes for public participation and/or the 20-minute minimum total length of time for any one subject; and/or
 - c. Determination of procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board may be presented to the Board of Education at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Questions addressed to the Board of Education may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.:2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)