

# VISITOR COMMENTS

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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 the allotted Visitor Comment section listed on the agenda. Please complete a Visitor Comment form available on the sign-in table and submit it to the Clerk of the Board. It is requested that comments be kept at a reasonable length, three minutes or less.

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

For a maximum of 60 minutes during each regular and special open meeting of the Board, 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. The time limit for public participation at a meeting may be extended upon the majority vote of the Board members at the regular or special meeting. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*.

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. This includes following the directives of the Board President to maintain order and decorum for all.
2. Use a sign-in sheet, if requested.
3. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to three minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period of time, the Board President may allow a person to speak for more than three minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
4. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board President's authority to:
  - a. Shorten 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; and/or
  - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
5. 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)

Updated January 17, 2023