



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools  
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

# PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC COMMENT

## At RPS School Board Meetings

[Policy 0167.3 can be found here.](#)

**At least 5 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting, any individual wishing to address the Board of Education must register in one of the following ways:**

- Call 616.863.6557 and speak to someone during business hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm, M-F). This person will provide confirmation that you are registered. You will need to provide your full name, address, phone number and group affiliation (if applicable.)
- Email [jnester@rockfordschools.org](mailto:jnester@rockfordschools.org) with your full name, address, phone number and group affiliation if applicable. You will receive a confirmation email that you are registered.
- Register in person at 350 N. Main Street, Rockford, Michigan during business hours listed above. You will need to provide your full name, address, phone number and group affiliation (if applicable.) The person whom you speak with will provide confirmation that you are registered to speak during public comment.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**I didn't register, but I still want to speak during public comment. Can I speak without registering?**

No. The rules for participation outlined in RPS Board of Education Policy 0167.3 require a registration at least 5 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting. You will be unable to participate in the public comment for that specific meeting. However, the school board meets monthly. We welcome you to register and participate at our next meeting. The Board of Education also encourages you to reach out to the Superintendent's Office for further assistance or for a meeting with appropriate district personnel before the next board meeting.

**I registered to speak, but now I can't attend. Can I speak at the next meeting?**

Yes. The purpose of the registration requirement is to allow the school board to reasonably plan and facilitate public participation. You can speak at the next meeting, but you will need to re-register to speak at the next meeting as outlined in the RPS Board of Education Policy 0167.3.

**I registered to speak, but now I can't attend. Can I give my spot to someone else?**

No. The purpose of the registration requirement is to allow the school board to reasonably plan and facilitate public participation. We also want to be able to respond to and address community concerns about our school district. The rules for public participation require a registration from each actual participant to assist the board of education to facilitate our work as board trustees.

**I would like to speak at every board meeting. Can I register my desire to speak during public comment indefinitely or for the rest of the school year?**

No. The purpose of the registration requirement in RPS Board of Education Policy 0167.3 and the public participation rules embedded in our policy is to enable the school board to reasonably plan for and facilitate public comment at each of its regular and special public meetings. The purpose of RPS Board of Education Policy 0167.3 and the public participation rules are not served unless persons register their intent to participate in temporal proximity to each public meeting at which they intend to participate in public comment. Multi-meeting registrations or indefinite registrations do not meet the rules for public participation at Rockford Public Schools' Board of Education Meetings.