

1.021 PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the Riverside Leadership Academy. The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings to observe the board as it conducts its official business. The Board of Directors, as a representative body of the school, also wishes to provide a forum for citizens to express interests and concerns related to the school.

Requests to Address the Board – Public Comment Period

During each month in which the Board of Directors holds a regular meeting, at least one (1) period for public comment will be provided.

Individuals may address the Board for a maximum of three (3) minutes, unless otherwise specified by the Chairperson prior to the beginning of the public comment period. Speakers may not donate or waive their time to allow another speaker to exceed the allotted time. If many people have signed-up to speak, the Chairperson, at his or her discretion, may reduce the time for individual speakers and/or limit the public comment period to 30 minutes. These time limits shall be strictly enforced.

The procedure below will be followed:

1. Individuals wishing to be placed on a list of speakers for a Board meeting must sign up prior to the call to order of the meeting.
2. Speakers must sign up for themselves and provide their first and last name, physical address, email address, and phone number.
3. The Chairperson will read the following statement to open the Public Comment period:
“At the beginning of each Board meeting any citizen is invited to address the Board of Directors about matters related to Riverside Leadership Academy. Please be aware that disrespectful comments or comments of a personal nature directed at an individual either by name or inference, will not be allowed. If you have a personnel concern, it should be directed first to the Executive Director, then to the Board Chairperson and finally in writing to the Board. As Chairperson, I will stop you if your comments are inappropriate or when your time has expired. The Board is here to listen and will not respond to any remarks at this meeting. If further clarification or a response is necessary, you may be contacted later. Each speaker is asked to begin by stating your first and last name. You will have three (3) minutes to address the Board [unless the time is revised and stated by the Chairperson]. Your time begins after you state your name. Our first speaker tonight is...”
4. Individuals will be invited to address the Board in the order listed on the sign-up sheet. If an individual is not present when his/her name is called the individual will lose the

opportunity to address the Board at that meeting and the Chairperson will go to the next name on the list.

5. Speakers are not permitted to read statements from other individuals; however, speakers may leave a printed copy of their remarks with the Chairperson and the Executive Director.
6. Speakers may address any topic of their choice, provided that the topic is not prohibited as outlined below.

The Board will not hear in open session:

- i. • complaints about the performance of school personnel
 - ii. • personnel issues
 - iii. • confidential student issues
 - iv. • personal or individual matters
 - v. • other matters of a confidential nature
7. Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board; however, Board members may address the Chairperson to request further clarification. In response, the Chairperson may direct the Executive Director to investigate concerns or secure requested information and respond to the presenter later.
 8. Visitors may not take part in Board discussions by asking questions or making comments, except upon invitation to do so by the Chairperson.
 9. Obscene, abusive, defamatory language, personal attacks on any individual, and/or other disruptive conduct will not be tolerated. Disruptions by any person or persons of a public meeting will be subject to action in accordance with G.S. 143-318.17.

Reports of Complaints

Complaints about the performance of school personnel, implementation of Board policy, the quality of the educational program or the adequacy of school facilities should be submitted initially for a response from the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will make available this Board policy and other relevant grievance procedures to any individual or group submitting a complaint.

In the event the Board and Executive Director need to hear confidential items protected by law, a closed session meeting of the Board may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairperson. The same procedures used for hearing public comments at Board meetings will apply in such meetings.