

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE NSSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Illinois Open Meetings Act provides in Section 2.06 that at meetings of public bodies, “any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body.” “5 ILCS 120/2.06(g). In compliance with the Act, the Board of Directors of NSSRA has adopted the following rules and guidelines for public participation at its meetings.

At each regular or special open meeting, members of the public including NSSRA employees may comment on or ask questions of the board, subject to reasonable constraints.

Individuals appearing before the board are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Individuals attending board meetings must conduct themselves with respect and civility toward others.
2. A member of the public may address the board only during the time reserved for public comment as indicated on the agenda and, when recognized by the board president, should begin by stating his or her name. The board may request but will not require a speaker to provide his or her address.
3. Please be brief. Ordinarily, comments will be limited to five minutes. In unusual circumstances, a person who has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period may be allowed to speak for more than five minutes.
4. The board president may shorten or lengthen a person’s opportunity to speak. The president may also deny the opportunity to speak to a person who has previously addressed the board on the same subject within the past four months
5. The board president shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in these guidelines.
6. Members of the public may request that the board provide a response to their comments or questions. If the board receives such a request, it will either respond at the end of the meeting or ask the administration to respond on its behalf either orally or in writing. If the administration is asked to respond on the board’s behalf, it will do so by a date that is determined with input from the board and is based on the amount of work that must be completed in order to provide the response.
7. A copy of these guidelines will be posted on the Board Meetings page of NSSRA’s website.
8. Petitions or written correspondence directed to the NSSRA Board shall be presented to the board by the board president or secretary at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

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