



STATE OF INDIANA

MIKE BRAUN, Governor

**PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
JENNIFER RUBY**

Indiana Government Center South
402 West Washington Street, Room W470
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2745
Telephone: (317) 234-0906
Email: pac@opac.in.gov
Website: www.IN.gov/pac

November 4, 2025

Re: Complaint 25-FC-055
Dawn E. Beamer (Complainant) v.
Lanesville Community Schools (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is in response to Dawn Beamer's (Complainant's) complaint, dated February 19, 2025, regarding the Lanesville Community Schools (Respondent).

A Notice of Complaint with a copy of the complaint attached was sent to Respondent on October 16, 2025. Your complaint alleges that the Lanesville Community Schools violated the Open Door Law (ODL) by failing to allow you to speak at the February 18, 2025, school board meeting.

The Notice requested a formal response to the complaint from the Respondent by November 14, 2025. Respondent submitted a formal response to this office on October 29, 2025.

ANALYSIS

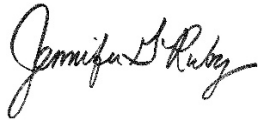
Your complaint stated that the Respondent denied you the ability to make a statement at the February 18, 2025, public school board meeting.

Indiana Code (IC) 5-14-1.5-3(d) provides that the governing body of a school corporation shall allow a member of the public who is physically present at the meeting location to provide oral public comment.

The formal response of the Respondent stated that after the February 18, 2025, meeting the President of the Lanesville Community School Board, Mr. Ryan Lind, and the Superintendent, Dr. Ryan Apple, investigated the claim by you that open comments should be allowed at school board meetings. The investigation resulted in a determination that open comments by the public should be permitted at school board meetings, and the school board has since added an item for public comment to their school board agendas beginning March, 2025.

CONCLUSION

This office finds that Respondent violated the Open Door Law by failing to allow for public comment at the regular school board meetings. This office also finds that the Respondent took immediate steps to research the issue and amend its policy prior to the next school board meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer G. Ruby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" being more prominent.

Jennifer G. Ruby
Public Access Counselor