

VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOPTED: June 1, 2009

REVISED:

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
1. Purpose	The Joint Committee recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Joint Committee meetings. The Joint Committee also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the center and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.
2. Authority SC 1850.1 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1	<p>The Joint Committee shall adopt policy to govern public participation in Joint Committee meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.</p> <p>In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Joint Committee shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Joint Committee for residents and taxpayers of participating districts to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Joint Committee prior to official action by the Joint Committee.</p> <p>The Joint Committee shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</p> <p>If the Joint Committee determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 407 Pol. 006	The presiding officer at each public Joint Committee meeting shall follow Joint Committee policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Joint Committee members present and voting.
4. Guidelines	Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Joint Committee, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies, procedures and the organizational structure of the center.

	<p>The Joint Committee requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of participating school districts.</p> <p>All individuals wishing to participate in a public Joint Committee meeting shall register their intent with the Joint Committee Secretary in advance of the meeting and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable.</p> <p>Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if applicable.</p> <p>No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.</p> <p>All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Joint Committee members individually.</p> <p>The presiding officer may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.3. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.4. Call a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting. <p>The portion of the meeting during which participation of the public is invited to speak may be limited.</p> <p>Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Joint Committee.</p> <p>The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.</p>
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References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407, 1850.1

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

Joint Committee Policy – 006