



SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
OPERATING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

ADOPTED: December 19, 1996

REVISED: New language
Discussed at First Reading

	903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
1. Purpose 65 P.S. 271 et seq	The Operating Committee recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Operating Committee meetings.
2. Authority 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 710.1	In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Operating Committee will provide a period for public participation at every open meeting of the Operating Committee and will formulate rules to govern such public participation in Operating Committee meetings. If the Operating 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.
3. Delegation of Responsibility 65 P.S. 271 et seq Pol. 006	The presiding officer at each public Operating Committee meeting will follow the rules of the Operating Committee for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy and Policy 006. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Board members present and voting. The presiding officer shall be guided by the rules established by the Operating Committee. Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the Procedures of the Operating Committee.
4. Guidelines	Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Operating Committee, they shall be dealt with in accordance with these policies and procedures. All persons wishing to participate in a public Operating Committee meeting shall register their intent, by providing their name and topic, to the Board Secretary by the close of business one day in advance of the meeting. Advanced registrants shall be granted five (5) minutes to comment.

42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq	The Operating Committee requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of the participating districts or anyone representing a group in the community or school district, any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Operating Committee, any ECTS employee, or any ECTS student. Nonresidents (except taxpayers) will be permitted to speak before the Operating Committee only after previously disclosing to the Director all the details of the presentation and relevance to ECTS. Any person with a disability should give the Operating Committee prior notice of his/her disability so that arrangements can be made to accommodate the disability, including arrangements so that any person with a disability can comprehend the proceedings before the Operating Committee and communicate his/her views to the Operating Committee if s/he desires to do so. <u>Communications to the Operating Committee</u> Operating Committee discussion or proceeding will not be interrupted by visitors during the course of the agenda. The Operating Committee Chairperson may, at his/her own discretion, request information or comment from any visitor or personnel present at the meeting. No discussion dealing with any personnel will be permitted in an open Operating Committee meeting. Persons may request an appointment with the Director to review their concerns. <u>Open Public Comment</u> At the start and at the end of each Operating Committee meeting, a brief period of time will be set aside to permit any person not on the agenda to make a statement or comment on the proceedings or to ask questions pertaining to the agenda items of the Operating Committee that evening. Public comments pertaining to items not on the agenda will take place at the end of the meeting. Comments should be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per individual or fifteen (15) minutes for a group. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Operating Committee members individually.
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	The presiding officer may: 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 in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting. 4. Call a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. Any person attending a meeting of the Board shall have the right to use electronic recording devices under the following rules: 1. No auxiliary lighting will be permitted. 2. Under no circumstances will recording devices or problems associated with them be permitted to interrupt or delay sessions of the Operating Committee. 3. Audio and video recording devices can be used from an individual's seat or from a location designated by the Chairperson. 4. An individual's right to record will be forfeited if there is an interference with the ability of others to observe the proceedings and all reasonable efforts have been made to correct the situation. 5. No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room. The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be distributed to the press and public at the Operating Committee meetings. References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 407 Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq. Operating Committee Policy -- 006
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