

Book	Policy Manual
Section	900 Community
Title	Public Participation in Joint Operating Committee Meetings
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Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee recognizes the value to governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Joint Operating Committee meetings. The Joint Operating Committee also recognizes its responsibility for proper governance of the center (school) and the need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner.

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to govern public participation in Joint Operating Committee meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Joint Operating Committee shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Joint Operating Committee for residents and taxpayers of participating districts to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation **which are or may be** before the Joint Operating Committee prior to official action by the Joint Operating Committee.[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

{ } The Joint Operating Committee shall require that public comments be made prior to each official action of the Joint Operating Committee.

{X} The Joint Operating Committee shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.

If the Joint 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.[\[3\]](#)

When an item is added to the agenda after the public comment period has ended, the Joint Operating Committee shall offer a further public comment opportunity limited to the added item(s).[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The presiding officer at each **open** Joint Operating Committee meeting shall follow Joint Operating Committee policy for the conduct of **open** meetings. Where **the presiding officer's** ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Joint Operating Committee members present and voting.[\[5\]](#)
[\[6\]](#)

Guidelines

Whenever issues identified by the participant are subject to remediation under policies and procedures of the Joint Operating Committee, they shall be dealt with in accordance with those policies, procedures and the organizational structure of the center (school).

The Joint Operating Committee requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of participating school districts.

{ X} or anyone having registered a legitimate interest in a contemplated action of the Joint Operating Committee.

{X} anyone representing a group in the community of a participating school district.

{X} any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Joint Operating Committee.

{X} any employee of the center (school).

{X} any student of the center (school).

{X} All individuals wishing to participate in an **open** Joint Operating Committee meeting shall register their intent with the Joint Operating Committee Secretary 3 days in advance of the meeting and shall include the name and address of the participant, topic to be addressed and group affiliation, if applicable.

{X} 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.

{X} Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to 3 minutes duration.

{X} No participant may speak more than once on the same topic, unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

{X} All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Joint Operating Committee members individually.

{ } The presiding officer may

(X) interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.

(X) request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.

(X) request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when **the person's** conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.

(X) call a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

() waive these rules with the approval of the Joint Operating Committee.

{X } The portion of the meeting during which participation of the public is invited to speak shall be limited to 10 minutes per topic.

Electronic recording devices and cameras, in addition to those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at **open** meetings under guidelines established by the Joint Operating Committee.[\[7\]](#)

{X } No placards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room.

The meeting agenda and all pertinent documents shall be available to the press and public at the meetings.[\[8\]](#)

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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1850.1
	2. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 710
	3. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 710.1
	4. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 712.1
	5. 24 P.S. 407
	6. Pol. 006
	7. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 711
	8. 65 Pa. C.S.A. 709
	65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq
	Pol. 906