LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOPTED: June 18, 2009

REVIEWED: June 16, 2016

REVISED:

903. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Purpose 65 P.S. 701 et seq	The Joint Operating Committee recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Joint Operating Committee meetings.
2. Authority	The Joint Operating Committee shall establish guidelines to govern public participation in Joint Operating Committee meetings necessary to conduct its meeting and to maintain order.
65 P.S. 710.1(A)	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 district's to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Joint Operating Committee prior to official action by the Joint Operating Committee. 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. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 006	The presiding officer at each public Joint Operating Committee meeting shall follow Joint Operating Committee policy for the conduct of public meetings. Where the Chairperson's ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Joint Operating Committee members present and voting.
4. 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 and procedures. **Citizens who desire a reaction of the Joint Operating Committee on a specific item should call the matter to the attention of the Administrative Director at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, with the intent that a response can be prepared and/or the item being placed on the agenda.**

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.

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

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

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy (longer than 5 minutes), 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.

5. Waive these rules with the approval of the Joint Operating Committee.

Electronic recording devices and cameras, other than those used as official recording devices, shall be permitted at public meetings under guidelines established by the Joint Operating Committee.

The meeting agenda shall be distributed to the press and public at the meetings.