

Bylaw 9010: Public Statements

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 10/16/2007 | Last Revised Date: 09/01/2015 | Last Reviewed Date: 09/01/2015

The Governing Board recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives, to communicate its positions, and to abide by established protocols.

Board Spokesperson

When a decision has been reached, all Board Members shall support that decision until amended or rescinded by Board action.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or, **with respect to a specific issue or topic**, other designated representative: **as designated by the Board or Board president.**

When speaking for the district, ~~the Board encourages its spokespersons to~~ **Board, a spokesperson shall** exercise restraint and tact and ~~to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.~~

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board: **or by law.** (Government Code 54963)

Statements by Individual Board Members

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, **or the media**, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify **when a viewpoint is held by an individual Board member rather than the Board as a whole. For example, a Board member may include a disclaimer on the Board member's personal social media account that the Board member is expressing** personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint ~~those~~ of the Board. **All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative. In addition, the district.**

Board encourages members who participate **opt to express their opinions** on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites **district matters, whether in-person or online, are expected** to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

Ed. Code 35010

Gov. Code 54960

Gov. Code 54963

Gov. Code 7920.000-7930.170

Description

[Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules](#)

[Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions](#)

[Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information](#)

[California Public Records Act](#)

Management Resources References

Court Decision

Website

Description

[Lindke v. Freed \(2024\) 601 U.S. 187](#)

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Management Resources References

Website

Description

[CSBA](#)

Cross References

0450

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

0450

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

1000

[Concepts And Roles](#)

1100

[Communication With The Public](#)

1112

[Media Relations](#)

1113

[District And School Websites](#)

1113

[District And School Websites](#)

1113-E(1)

[District And School Websites](#)

1114

[District-Sponsored Social Media](#)

1114

[District-Sponsored Social Media](#)

1160

[Political Processes](#)

1340

[Access To District Records](#)

1340

[Access To District Records](#)

2110

[Superintendent Responsibilities And Duties](#)

4143

[Negotiations/Consultation](#)

4143.1

[Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations](#)

4143.1

[Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations](#)

9000

[Role Of The Board](#)

9005

[Governance Standards](#)

9011

[Disclosure Of Confidential/Privileged Information](#)

9012

[Board Member Electronic Communications](#)

9121

[President](#)

9140

[Board Representatives](#)

9200

[Limits Of Board Member Authority](#)

9230

[Orientation](#)