

Bylaw 9010: Public Statements

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/01/1990 | Last Revised Date: 05/11/2022 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/11/2022

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

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 a spokesperson s to shall exercise restraint and tact and to communicate t he 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 Section 54963)

Statements by Individual Board Members

When speaking to community groups, 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 or the district .

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion opt to express their opinions on district matters, whether in-person or online, are expected or informational sites 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.
