

Public Statements

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

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10 All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be
11 made by the Board President or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or
12 other designated representative.

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14 When speaking for the District, the Board encourages its spokespersons to
15 exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that
16 promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

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18 Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or
19 information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority
20 of the Board.

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22 When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media,
23 individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be
24 perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members
25 have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the
26 viewpoint of the Board.

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28 In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social
29 networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct
30 themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model
31 good behavior for District students and the community. Such electronic
32 communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established
33 for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the
34 California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

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36 Legal Reference:
37 EDUCATION CODE
38 35010 Control of District; prescription and enforcement of rules
39 GOVERNMENT CODE
40 6250-6270 California Public Records Act

Public Statements

41 54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

42 54963 Confidential information in closed session

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44 Management Resources:

45 WEB SITES

46 CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

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48 ~~(9/90-6/94)~~ 8/13

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50 Adopted: _____

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