

CLASSIFICATION: Bylaws of the Board**ADOPTED: 3/8/95****REVISED: 9/9/20****SUBJECT: Public Statements****PAGE: 1 of 2**

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

It is important to remember that County Board members are board members whether they are in the board room or in public or private settings. As public officials, board members actions are scrutinized by the public. Thus, it is important to demonstrate good boardsmanship at all times and in all public settings.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the County Board shall be made by the County Board President or, if appropriate, by the San Diego county superintendent of schools or other designated spokesperson. The County Board President, or any other spokesperson as mentioned above, shall make every effort to coordinate with the Communications department prior to making any public statements.

When speaking for the County Board, the spokesperson is encouraged to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the County Board's leadership.

When making public statements, County Board members shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when so authorized by a majority of the County Board.

County Board members should be a role model of professional behavior, and be mindful to be civil, reasonable, patient and courteous, and work to avoid sarcasm, raised voices and condescending tones when discussing conflicting opinions.

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, individual County Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as

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reflecting the views and positions of the County Board. County Board members have a responsibility to explicitly identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the County Board. Questions to individual County Board members from the media should be referred to the county superintendent of schools, or designated spokesperson for response in accordance with board policies and regulations.

In addition, County Board members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites are encouraged to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for SDCOE 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.

County Board members are responsible to members of the public to uphold the highest standards of ethics. In order to be able to enforce conformance to its ethical policies, County Board members who violate this bylaw may be subject to censure, and any other actions within the County Board's purview to enforce its bylaws and regulations.

Board Policy: 1110**Board Bylaw Nos.: 9005, 9011, 9012, 9200, 9321****Derivation: Adopted 3/8/95. Amended 12/10/97, 5/10/17, 9/9/20.****Legal Reference: Government Code
6250-6270, 54960, 54963****Management Resources:**

California School Boards Association, Governance:
www.csba.org/GovernanceAndPolicyResources/EffectiveGovernance
California County Boards of Education, Governance:
www.theccbe.org/en/Resources/CountyBoardGovernance
SDCOE Basic Principles of Board/Administrative Leadership Team Governance
SDCOE Models Standards of Practice, Governance Team