

POLICY

1999

3111

Community Relations

SUBJECT: BOARD STATEMENTS

The Board believes that one of its major responsibilities is to keep the public informed of its agendas, deliberations, policies, and actions. Therefore, the Board encourages media representatives attendance at all public Board meetings. In addition, the Board, through its authorized channels, provides timely public information as follows:

- a) The Board president is authorized to serve as public spokesperson for the Board. In the absence of the president, the vice president will serve as the Board spokesperson. The president may also designate the Superintendent to serve as Board spokesperson.
- b) Statements issued in the name of the Board must represent the expressed intent or opinion of the Board.
- c) In order that the Board may transact its business with dispatch, while meetings are in progress, questions from the media will be entertained during the public participation period.
- d) When individual Board members receive requests from news media or other public agencies for information about Board meetings, members will refer the information-seekers to the Superintendent or the Board president who will be the Board spokespersons, except as they specifically delegate this responsibility to others.
- e) The intent of this policy is to provide accurate reports of Board business to the public. This policy does not prohibit individual Board members from expressing individual views. However, all Board members must make it clearly understood in all written and oral communications that they are expressing their own opinion and not speaking for the Board.

In the event that representatives of the news media are unable to attend a meeting, they will be provided, on request, with a summary of important Board actions.

Adopted: 6/16/99