

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Policies for Board 33-1
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#### 0143.1 - **PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

The Board President functions as the official spokesperson for the Board.

From time-to-time, however, individual Board members will make public statements on school matters:

- A. ~~to local media;~~
- B. ~~to local officials and/or State officials.~~

~~Sometimes~~ If the statements imply, or if the readers (listeners) could infer, that the opinions expressed or statements made are the official positions of the Board, ~~the misunderstandings that can result from these incidents can embarrass both the member and the Board. Therefore,~~ the Board members shall should, when writing or speaking on school matters ~~to the media, legislators, and other officials~~, make it clear that their views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board or of their colleagues on the Board.

- A. This bylaw shall apply to all statements and/or writings by individual Board members not explicitly sanctioned by a majority of its members, except as follows:
  - 1. correspondence, such as legislative proposals, when the Board member has received official guidance from the Board on the matters discussed in the letter
  - 2. routine, not for publication, correspondence of the Superintendent and other Board employees
  - 3. routine "thank you" letters of the Board
  - 4. statements by Board members on nonschool matters (providing the statements do not identify the author as a member of the Board)
  - 5. personal statements not intended for publication

- B. Copies of this bylaw shall be sent annually to local media by the Board President.

#### **[OPTIONAL LANGUAGE]**

**[x ]** A Board member's personal or private use of social media may have unintended, negative consequences to the Board member and/or the District, including possible violations of the Open Meetings Act and issues relating to creation of a public record. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the Board member's responsibilities, applicable District policies, and legal obligations.

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