

Series 1000 – Community Relations

1. Communication with the Public

A. Media Communication

(3) News Media Relationships (Public Press, Radio & TV)

(a) Coverage of Board of Education Meetings

The Board believes that one of the paramount responsibilities of a Board of Education is to keep the public informed of its goals, agendas, policies, challenges and successes. Therefore, the Board encourages the attendance of press representatives at all meetings except executive sessions.

1. A press table, provided with extra working copies of the agenda and agenda materials shall be located near the Board's table to enable reporters to follow discussion without difficulty.
2. In order that the Board may transact its business with dispatch, questions from the press will not be entertained while meetings are in progress. However, questions may be asked in the period designated for comments from citizens.
3. When individual Board members receive requests from news media representatives for information about Board meetings, they may give the media reasons for their own personal actions regarding events or actions at a Board meeting. However, a Board member shall not speak to media regarding events or actions of the entire Board, but shall refer information-seekers to the Superintendent or the Board Chairperson who shall be the spokesperson for the Board except as he/she specifically delegates this responsibility to others.

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

Policy adopted: October 6, 1998
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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut