

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

The Marlborough Board of Education recognizes that communication is a continuous two-way process. The Board believes that it is important to keep the public informed about educational programs, and, in turn, that the community should have the opportunity to provide input.

Communication will be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will work with the members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive program throughout the school district and community for the prompt dissemination of information about decisions made at all Board meetings. Releases to the press and brief summaries of Board meeting actions prepared for distribution to staff members and parent/guardians are regarded as appropriate media of information for meeting the requirements of this bylaw. Press releases relative to Board of Education action shall be released only by the Board chairperson or the delegated agent of the Board.

(cf. 1112.2 - School News Releases)

(cf. 1120 - Board of Education Meetings)

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

Advocacy

The Board of Education believes that advocacy is a critical part of its activity and an important responsibility of school board members. Advocacy is engagement in the political process at local, state and national levels to influence the public policies that affect Boards of Education and school children.

Education advocacy requires the Board of Education to publicly state what is needed to achieve effective public education. It is a recognition that the Board of Education has an important message to deliver to all governmental levels, the media and community, that affect educational policy and power to influence outcomes.

Education must be a priority in local, state and national policy and actions. Advocacy is necessitated by the many laws mandated on the school district by the state and federal government as well as regulations promulgated by state and federal departments of education.

School board members can be powerful advocates. They have the responsibility to explain to legislators, the local impact of state and federal policy decisions. Local school board members are encouraged to help the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education deliver its message to legislators.

In fulfilling its advocacy responsibilities, the Board of Education may cooperate with parent groups, other educators, special interest groups, business and service organizations other school boards, CAFE, and community members to achieve favorable legislation on education issues. Coalition building is critical to effective advocacy.

The Board of Education may develop a plan to fulfill its advocacy responsibilities.

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

Advocacy

To fulfill its advocacy role, the Board of Education may:

1. join a broad advocacy network, including CABE membership, at the state and national levels;
2. schedule time as required at Board meetings for a report on state and national advocacy issues;
3. recognize the Board of Education Chairperson, or his/her designee, as the press spokesperson for the Board of Education on state and national educational issues;
4. use varied available means of communication, such as newsletter, general media, public forums to publicize federal and state legislative policy issues being addressed by the Board;
5. cooperate with other Boards of Education, teachers parents, administrators, local elected officials, business and community leaders on agreed upon educational issues;
6. use media as an advocacy tool, meeting with the editorial board of newspapers serving the local area, writing letters to the editor and talking with reporters on educational legislative issues