



BYLAWS

BOARD POLICY – PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND BOARD ENDORSEMENTS BP 9010

The County Board of Education 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 Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO), and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding SBCEO 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.

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 County Superintendent of Schools or other designated spokesperson.

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 authorized by a majority of the County Board. (Government Code 54963)

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 reflecting the views and positions of the County Board. County Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the County Board.

In addition, 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 SBCEO 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.

Requests for Board Endorsements

The County Board is asked occasionally to take a position or adopt resolutions in favor or against policy initiatives such as local or state propositions. Generally, the County Board believes that taking a position on matters outside the scope of its jurisdiction is inadvisable and will not place these items on its agenda.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Management Resources

Website
Website

Description

[CSBA](#)
[California County Boards of Education](#)

State

Gov. Code 54960
Gov. Code 54963
Gov. Code 7920.000-7930.170

Description

Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions
Confidential information in closed session
California Public Records Act

APPROVED BY COUNTY BOARD: March 14, 2024