BA-BR2 - BOARD MEMBER INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE

While the District is not responsible for the online activity of individual board members on their personal social media and internet accounts, the Hope-Page School Board adopts the following rules and procedures related to a board member's social media and internet activity, including, but not limited to, comments/posts on school district business online.

Individual board members have no authority to take action on behalf of the District unless delegated such authority by a majority vote of the Board taken at a properly noticed board meeting. However, the public may still perceive individual board members as official district spokespersons without the delegation of specific authority. Because of this potential perception, whenever commenting on school district business online, individual board members shall:

1. Avoid posting content indicating that they have formed an opinion on a matter pending before the Board;
2. Avoid posting a dissenting opinion on a matter that has been decided by a majority vote of the Board;
3. Clarify that they are commenting as individuals-not as District spokespersons-and remove all identifying information that would connect the individual to the Board on their personal website and/or social media accounts.
4. Only speak for the District (when delegated authority to do so by a majority vote of the Board) on authorized District websites and social media accounts and *never* on personal websites or social media accounts.
5. Never exercise authority (whether or not delegated such authority by the Board) to speak on behalf of the Board or the District on individual/-personal websites or social media.
6. Comply with District policy and applicable laws related to confidentiality including, but not limited to, items discussed during an executive session, student educational records, pending administrative investigations about personnel, etc.;
7. Do not respond to or comment on patron/-personnel complaints or curriculum complaints and direct those complaints to the appropriate District channels for processing in accordance with policy;
8. Not delete or block public members on a District website or social media account, without consultation with the Superintendent and District legal counsel;
9. Not engage in any conduct prohibited by state or federal law or District policy in any online realm;
10. Not poll or otherwise ask for community input unless (i) delegated this authority by a majority vote of the Board, and (ii) posting only on authorized District websites and social media accounts; and
11. Report to the Superintendent, as soon as possible, any public comments that potentially violate District policy, including policies on discrimination and harassment, bullying, and employee speech.

Use of District Technology
Board members shall comply with the District's acceptable use policy when using District-owned technology.

End of Hope-Page School Board Regulation BA-BR2.....**Adopted: 12/2024**