

BGA: Board Communication with the Public

As members of the Divide County School Board, individual board members may be contacted by the public with questions, comments, or concerns related to school matters. When approached by the public for these reasons, Divide County School Board members shall comply with the applicable portions of the following procedure:

- Explain that individual board members have no authority to act on behalf of the Board.
- Explain that because board members serve as the “jury” when a licensed staff member (e.g., teacher, principal, or superintendent) is being considered for nonrenewal or discharge, board members must maintain their impartiality in the event of such a hearing. Consequently, board members must not hear complaints about licensed staff.
- Explain that the Board has developed complaint procedures to handle public concerns and complaints and refer the complainant to the appropriate source under policy for further investigation.

If the communication concerns a comment or concern about the Divide County School Board or for which the Board has not established a policy, the matter shall be referred to the Divide County School Board President.

To ensure compliance under the open meetings law, board members shall not forward or discuss correspondence from the public with other board members outside the context of an open meeting except as otherwise stipulated above. In addition, the Board shall comply with the protocol contained in all policies related to complaints, some of which may prohibit an appeal to the Board.