San Mateo County Board of Education Policy

Board of Education BP 9010

Statements by Individual Board Members

The County Board recognizes the rights of County Board members to express freely their views and encourages open discussion of issues during the Board meeting. The County Board believes that effective County Board members have a responsibility to express themselves, whether in agreement or disagreement with the County Board majority, in ways that promote the County Board's ability to govern and function effectively.

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, 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 viewpoints of the County Board.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the County Board shall be made by the County Board President or, at the direction of the County Board President, by the County Superintendent or his/her designated representative.

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.

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.

Legal References:

- 6250-6270 California Public Records Act
- 54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions
- 54963 Confidential information in closed session
- Education Code 35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

Adopted SMCBE: 09/03/08
(Replaces BP 9450.1)
Revised SMCBE: 08/17/16