

**SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BB 9010**

Board Bylaws

Public Statements

The Governing Board recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board. Board members shall follow public speaking guidelines similar to members of the public by speaking to specific agenda items and being respectful to members of the public, staff and other Board members.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative. (cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged) (cf. 9200 - Board Members)

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54963) (cf. 9005 - Governance Standards) (cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district 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. (cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites) (cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media) (cf. 1340 - Access to District Records) (cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010

Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

54960

Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

6250-6270

California Public Records Act

54963

Confidential information in closed session