

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

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

All public statements in the name of the Board of Education shall be issued by the Board President or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or designee at the direction of the Board President. No individual Board member shall make public statements in the name of the Board.

Before voting on any issue, all Board members shall be encouraged to present whatever evidence they may feel important to the matter at hand. The Board shall fully consider the implications and relevancy of all information so presented. All opinions, reactions and positions shall be openly discussed, so that each member may understand all aspects of the issue before the Board makes its decision. Any Board member who may wish to criticize or oppose any specific Board action should do so during the Board meeting.

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.

Once a Board decision has been reached, all Board members shall abide by that decision until it is amended or rescinded by subsequent Board action. When Board members express their opinions outside of the Board meeting, it is their responsibility to respect the democratic nature of Board decision-making and always identify personal viewpoints as such. (cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of District; prescription and enforcement of rules

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orange, California

Adopted: (7-88 10-92 7-96) 12-05