

BY-LAW

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The Board recognizes that arbitrary or independent actions of Board members can produce serious consequences for the effectiveness of school operations. An essential quality of a good Board member is a deep sense of loyalty to associates and to group decisions cooperatively reached.

Only the Board President or the Superintendent shall be authorized to make statements of official Board positions.

No other member of the Board of Education individually will speak for, or in the name of, the total Board unless by explicit direction of the Board. Board members should emphasize that they can only speak as individual Board members unless empowered by the Board to speak for it. Board members are entitled to express themselves publicly on any matter, including issues involving the Board and the school district. Individual Board members cannot, however, express the position of the Board except as expressly authorized, in accordance with Board policy. A Board member shall not represent his/her personal opinion as the position of the Board and shall include in all formal expressions in which his/her Board affiliation is likely to be recognized, such as letters to government officials or newspapers, speeches to organizations, and the like, a statement that the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Board.

Breaches of this policy, especially if repeated, will render the offending member liable to admonition by the Board of Education or to other such disciplinary action as may be appropriate.

Date: January 18, 1993

Reviewed/Revised: February 23, 2009

<u>Legal References:</u>	N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4	Distribution of literature to candidacy, board issues, or other public question to be submitted at election; prohibited
	N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1100	Communicating with the public
	1110	Media
	9010	Role of the member

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File Code: 9020

9020
9271

Public and Executive Sessions
Code of ethics