

Public Statements

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

No member of the County Board will individually speak for, or in the name of, represent the total County Board unless by explicit direction 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, if appropriate, by the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools (“Superintendent”) or other designated spokesperson.

When speaking for the County Board, the spokesperson is encouraged to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the County Board's leadership.

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. (Government Code 54963)

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

In addition, County Board members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites are encouraged to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for YCOE 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.

When a County Board member is in an official County Board meeting, all members are expected to exercise their duty as a County Board member and their constitutional rights as a private citizen in the expression of opinions.

Legal Reference:

Government Code, 7920.000-7931.000, 54960, 54963

Management Resources:

Websites CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California County Boards of Education: <http://www.theccbe.org>

Adopted: June 29, 2017

Revised: June 27, 2023