

Twin Rivers USD

Board Bylaw

Public Statements

REVISED

BB 9010

Board Bylaws

The Board of Trustees 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.

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

(cf. 9121 - President)

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)

~~The Board of Trustees 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. Whether speaking or writing in agreement or disagreement with the Board majority, Board members have a duty to speak truthfully when making written or oral public statements, and should not use their position to libel or slander other Board members, district employees, or members of the public.~~

When speaking to community groups, **members of the public, or** 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 will not make statements that purport to be on behalf of the Board or that appears to represent the views of the entire Board without clear authorization to speak on behalf of the Board.~~

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)
(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

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)

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.

~~Board Members shall not make oral or written public statements on behalf of the Board without authorization by a majority of the Board. When issuing written public statements, Board members shall not use district letterhead without authorization by a Board majority.~~

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6277 California Public Records Act

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

54963 Confidential information in closed session

Bylaw TWIN RIVERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: March 18, 2008 McClellan, California

revised: January 4, 2011

revised: Month xx, 2017