

# LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Bylaw 9010

### **REVISION**

#### **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 Board meetings. 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.~~

The 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.

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.

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 spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board.

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.

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  
                          54963 Unauthorized disclosure of confidential  
                          Information  
                          7920.000-7930.170 California Public Records Act

Bylaw  
approved:    12/03/91  
revised:     02/18/97