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**FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**Board Bylaws****PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS**

The 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 County Board, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding County Board 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 by the County Board to be made on its behalf shall be made by the Board President, unless the County Board has authorized another Board member, the County Superintendent, or other designated spokesperson to speak on the County Board's behalf.

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 or by law. (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 when a viewpoint is held as an individual County Board member rather than the County Board as a whole. For example, a County Board member may include a disclaimer on the County Board member's personal social media account that the County Board member is expressing personal viewpoints and not those of the County Board.

County Board members who opt to express their opinions on County Board matters, whether in-person or online, are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for students and the community.

Adopted: 04/20/1995 (Board Bylaw No. 9020)

Amended: 11/15/2018, 11/21/2024

**Legal Reference**Education Code

1040 Duty of County Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations for its own government

Government Code

54950 – 54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

7920.000-7930.170 California Public Records Act

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Court Decision

Lindke v. Freed (2024) 601 U.S. 187

COE 9010, 09/2024; Doc# 4894-0614-9014