

Board Member/Community Relations

No. 870
(A) 12-14-15

Board Members may encounter situations in which community members, staff, the media or others will inquire about Board activities. Members are entitled to voice their opinion and discuss items of public concern; however, other than when referencing Board of Education action already taken, members are to make clear they are speaking as one member of a seven member group, are not speaking for the group and do not have any authority outside of group action. Board Members may also encounter situations in which community members, staff, the media or others will request an action be taken on their behalf. The Board Member should respond by explaining the limitations on individual member action while providing guidance for action in response to the request.

Examples of appropriate Board Member responses may include:

- a) The Board Member may suggest that the information or request be taken by the (requestor, informant) to the appropriate staff member or Administrator.
- b) The Board Member may take the information or request to the administration, the appropriate committee, or the full Board.

Board Members should refrain from offering to "take care of it" due to the limitations on individual Board Member actions.

Board Members are reminded that the official spokespersons for the Board of Education and the School District of Lodi are the Board President and the District Administrator unless otherwise designated by Board action or the Board President.