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**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

The Board of Directors (Board) recognizes the responsibility of board members in their role as leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the non-profit corporation, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding non-profit corporation 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.

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/CEO or other designated representative.

When speaking for the non-profit corporation, 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.

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, 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 students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication.