

SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: SUPERINTENDENT,

EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 13, 2015

REVISED:

The Board of Trustees recognizes that electronic communication among Board members and between Board members, district administration, and members of the public is an efficient and convenient way to communicate and expedite the exchange of information and to help keep the community informed about the goals, programs, and achievements of the district and its schools. Board members shall exercise caution so as to ensure that electronic communications are not used as a means for the Board to deliberate outside of an agendaized Board meeting.

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of electronic communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

Examples of permissible electronic communications concerning district business include, but are not limited to, dissemination of Board meeting agendas and agenda packets, reports of activities from the Superintendent, and reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places.

Board members shall make every effort to ensure that their electronic communications conform to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication. A Board member may respond, as appropriate, to an electronic communication received from a member of the community and should make clear that his/her response does not necessarily reflect the views of the Board as a whole. Any complaint or request for information should be forwarded to the Superintendent in accordance with Board bylaws and protocols so that the issue may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process. As appropriate, communication received from the press shall be forwarded to the designated district spokesperson.

In order to minimize the risk of improper disclosure, Board members shall avoid reference to confidential information and information acquired during closed session.

Board members may use electronic communications to discuss matters other than district business with each other, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion.

Like other writings concerning district business, a Board member's electronic communication may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35140 *Time and place of meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35145.5 *Agenda; public participation; regulations*

35147 *Open meeting law exceptions and applications*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 *State programs and activities, discrimination*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54952.2 *Meeting, defined*

54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*

54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements, board actions*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2006*

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, 2003*

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

*Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, rev. 2007*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA, Agenda Online:

<http://www.csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=ilsg>