

## **PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, individual Monterey County Board of Education (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 personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the County Board.

All public statements in the name of the County Board shall be issued by the County Board president or, if appropriate, by the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) or other designated representative. No individual County Board member shall make public statements in the name of the County Board. No member of the County Board shall have the power to act in the name of the County Board outside of County Board meetings unless by approval of the County Board given at an official County Board meeting. No individual County Board member shall express an opinion or position, orally or in writing, in such a way that it allows an audience to conclude that such opinion or position is held by the County Board, unless the County Board has acted as a unit to adopt the position or opinion.

Members of the Monterey County Board of Education shall have authority to represent the County Board only when acting as a County Board member in regular session, in a special session, or when acting as the County Board's representative to a Joint Powers Agency or any other official body or group to which the County Board shall designate one (1) of its members as a representative.

The County Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of any individual member except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific instructions by the County Board.

The County Board, as a body, shall not endorse candidates for public office. A member of the County Board may use his/her title of "member" in correspondence and endorsement of any candidate or issue or community meeting. However, he/she should state that the views expressed are that of a citizen and do not represent the views of the County Board.

This policy in no way prohibits a County Board member, when not in attendance at a County Board meeting, from answering inquiries or questions from members of the public relating to County Board and/or Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) business, with the provision that the County Board member states that he or she is expressing his or her view, opinion or analysis and not that of the County Board unless such view, opinion or analysis is on record by the County Board.

County Board members will follow proper County Board decorum and will respect the divergent views of other Board members.

**County Board Advocacy**

A continuing goal of the Monterey County Board of Education is to seek the best education for the students in Monterey County. In pursuit of that goal the County Board may advocate for a perceived need in public education.

The County Board, by resolution, may express its views on the following when they concern or affect education:

- State proposition or initiatives
- Federal, state or local legislative matters
- Objective information regarding school district bond elections in Monterey County

For distribution, County Board Resolutions described in this policy shall be included with County Board Agendas mailed to all regular recipients of agendas. They shall also be mailed to all local state legislators.

*Legal Reference:*

*California Constitution; E. C. 35010*

EDUCATION CODE

1040(a)      *Board Authority to adopt rules and regulations*  
7052-7053      *Political Action*  
7054.1      *Appearance before citizen's group*

Approved:    3/24/71; 3/16/94

Revised:     11/19/86; 3/2/94; 9/01/99; 10/03/07; 06/19/13