

## **Bylaw 9012: Board Member Electronic Communications**

The Governing Board recognizes that electronic communication is an efficient and convenient way for Board members to communicate and expedite the exchange of information with each other, district staff, and members of the public. Governing Board members shall exercise caution to ensure compliance with the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and other applicable laws.

A majority of the Governing 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.

Governing Board members may engage in separate conversations or communications with members of the public on a social media platform to answer questions, provide information, or solicit information regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board as long as a majority of the Governing Board does not use the platform to discuss among themselves any business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board. Additionally, Governing Board members are prohibited from using digital icons, such as "likes" or "emojis," that express reactions to communications made by other Governing Board members regarding matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

Governing Board members shall make every effort to ensure that their electronic communications conform to Board Bylaw 9010 - Public Statements and shall forward any complaints or requests for information to the Superintendent in accordance with applicable Board bylaws.

To the extent possible, electronic communications regarding any district-related business shall be transmitted through a district-provided device or account. When any such communication is transmitted through a Governing Board member's personal device or account, the Governing Board member shall copy the communication to a district electronic storage device for easy retrieval.

This Bylaw does not apply to Governing Board member electronic communications not related to district business or not conducted by a Governing Board member in the Governing Board member's official capacity.