

## **Community Relations**

### **News Media Relationships**

Because schools are public institutions serving the educational needs of the community, it is important that information be disseminated concerning programs, activities, and significant school events. The Board of Education Chairperson shall be the official spokesperson for the Board. The Superintendent of Schools may report on actions of the Board.

The Principal (or designee) has the right to restrict interaction between representatives of the media and students and staff on school property if he/she deems it interferes or disrupts the educational process. The media must follow appropriate procedures for access to students.

### **Board of Education**

Board meetings to which the public has access may be photographed, broadcast, or recorded for broadcast by any newspaper, radio broadcasting company, or television broadcasting company, subject to the following guidelines:

1. News media personnel who intend to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast the proceedings of any public meeting of the Board of Education shall provide appropriate identification to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, prior to said meeting of the Board.
2. Only news media personnel employed by a newspaper, radio or television broadcasting company, or personnel of a recognized student news medium assigned to cover the proceedings of a Board of Education public meeting shall be permitted to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast, such proceedings.
3. Any photographer, broadcaster, or news journalist authorized by their employer or by a student news medium to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast, proceedings at a public meeting of the Board of Education, and any personnel associated with said photographer, broadcaster, or news journalist, shall photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast proceedings of said meeting as inconspicuously as possible and without disturbing the proceedings.
4. If, in the judgment of the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the presence at a Board meeting of any photographer, broadcaster, or news journalist causes such disruption that orderly conduct of the public business at such meeting is negatively affected, access by these individuals may be limited or denied.
5. Letters to the editor or editorials written by members of the community and the public will be reviewed by the Board of Education on a case-by-case basis to determine if a response, rebuttal or article will be generated or if no course of action should be taken.

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### **News Media Relationships (continued)**

Members of the press, television and radio stations will be directed by the Superintendent of Schools to the administrator directly responsible for the information they seek.

Information released to the media shall be that which is public information as covered by statute. It is recognized that there is information of a confidential nature which shall not be released, such as information concerning personnel, grievances, negotiations, court actions and special placement of students. Information provided to the media should be factual and should not involve speculation or assumptions.

Legal Reference:       Connecticut General Statutes  
                              1-226 Recording, broadcasting or photographing meetings

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MONTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Montville, Connecticut