

OFFICIAL SCHOOL SPOKESPERSON AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Policy Code:

2220

The official spokespersons of the school system will be the chairperson of the board or designee and the superintendent and designees. Any person speaking in an official capacity shall conduct his or her assignment from the standpoint of the best interests of the board, the school system and the community, not as a representative of his or her own personal ideas or feelings.

Any individual Board member that chooses to communicate with persons regarding school matters through any publication (including email and web-based communications) is encouraged to further the aims of this policy by including the following statement: *“This message is the opinion of and is not intended to represent the official position of the Buncombe County Schools or the Buncombe County Board of Education.”*

The time and energy of the school administration is best spent educating the students of the Buncombe County Schools. To avoid wasting valuable administrative time and resources, and to ensure the accuracy of information provided to the public regarding school business, it is the policy of the Board of Education that all Board members should inform the Superintendent and/or the Chair in advance anytime they intend to make a statement regarding school business.

If an individual Board member makes statements to any person or takes any action related to a complaint or concern, the Superintendent or designee is hereby authorized to respond as deemed appropriate to any such statements or actions that involve inaccurate or incomplete information. This policy is not intended to limit the right of the Superintendent or designee to disseminate information regarding the school system as deemed appropriate.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -276

Cross References: Board Authority and Duties (policy 1010), Code of Ethics for School Board Members (policy 2120)

Adopted: December 3, 2012

Revised: December 12, 2013