

## **KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **BOARD BYLAWS**

#### **COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

The Kern County Board of Education recognizes that electronic communication is an efficient and convenient way for County Board members to communicate and expedite the exchange of information. However, electronic communications shall not be used as a means for the County Board to deliberate outside of an agenda meeting, circumvent the public's right to access records regarding county board business, or restrict access to a public forum.

A majority of County Board members 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 County Board. (Government Code section 54952.2)

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

To avoid inadvertently violating the prohibition of law against a serial meeting, a county board member shall not forward any comments on an electronic communication received from another member regarding an issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the County Board to any other member.

County board members may engage in separate conversations or communications with members of the public on a social media platform as permitted by law as long as a majority of the County 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 County Board. A county board member is prohibited from responding directly to any communication from other county board members regarding matters that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the County Board or using digital icons (e.g., "likes" or emojis) to express reactions to communications made by other county board members. (Government Code section 54952.2)

Whenever a county board member uses a social media platform to communicate with the public about county board business or activities, the county board member shall not block access to a member of the public based on the viewpoint expressed by that individual.

County board members may use electronic communications to discuss matters that are outside the jurisdiction of the County Board, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion.

When communicating electronically, county board members shall make every effort to adhere to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication. A county board member may respond to an electronic communication received from a member

of the community and should make clear that the response does not necessarily reflect the views of the County Board as a whole. As appropriate, complaints or requests for information shall be forwarded to the County Superintendent so that the issue may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate process. Communication received from the media shall be forwarded to the county board president and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

Legal References:

Government Code

54950-54963 Brown Act

6250-6270 California Public Records Act