

Community Relations

News Media Relations

Schools are public institutions serving the educational needs of the community. Therefore, it is important that information be disseminated concerning programs, activities, and significant school events. To ensure that this publicity be given wide coverage and coordinated with a common effort and purpose, the following procedures shall be followed with news media:

1. The Ledyard Board of Education Chairperson shall be the official spokesman for the Board. The Superintendent may report on actions of the Board.
2. News releases of a system-wide nature, or which pertain to established school system policy, are the responsibility of the Superintendent and will be issued through his/her office.
3. News releases, which are of concern to only one school, or to an organization of one school, are the responsibility of the building administrator.

Ledyard Board of Education 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 shall provide appropriate identification to the Superintendent 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 public meeting shall be permitted to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast, such proceedings.
3. News media personnel 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 in such a manner that does not disturb the meeting's proceedings.
4. If, in the judgment of the Chairperson, 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 becomes unfeasible, access by these individuals may be limited to the extent necessary to remove the disruption.

Related Policies:

1110 – Communications with the Public

1112.5 – News Media Access to Students

1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

1-200. Definitions.

1-225. Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.

1-226. Recording, broadcasting, or photographing meetings.

1-232. Conduct of meetings.

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ledyard, Connecticut