

## **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. 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 Board of Education Chairperson shall be the official spokesman for the Board. The Superintendent of Schools 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 Principals, subject to any procedures that may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools.

### **Recording and Conduct at Board Meetings**

Board meetings to which the public has access may be photographed, broadcast, or recorded by the public, as well as the news media, subject to the following guidelines:

1. The public, as well as the news media, shall record, photograph, or broadcast, said meeting as inconspicuously as possible and in such a manner which doesn't disturb proceedings.
2. If, in the judgment of the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the presence at a Board meeting of any person 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 disruption.
3. In the event that any meeting of the Board is interrupted by any person or group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible, and if (in the judgment of the Chairperson) order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meetings, the Board may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Duly accredited representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any such session.

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

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
1-226 Recording, broadcasting, or photographing meetings.  
1-232 Conduct of meetings.

Policy adopted: May 7, 2001  
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut