

**BOARD MEETING NEWS
COVERAGE**

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Rescinds Policy Number:

Issued:

The Orange County Board of Education believes that one of its paramount responsibilities is to keep the public informed of the operations, programs, and needs of the public schools. All meetings of the board of education will be open to representatives of the news media except for sessions required by law to be closed.

Mechanical devices may be used during meetings to record, broadcast, or photograph board meetings, if they do not interfere with the ability of the board to conduct its business. The placement and use of any equipment necessary to broadcast, film, or record a meeting may be regulated by the board to prevent undue interference with the meeting but not in such a way as to frustrate the coverage of the meeting.

If a meeting room is too small to accommodate all of the personnel and equipment necessary to broadcast, film, or record a meeting, the board may require equipment to be pooled. If the news media requests an alternate meeting place in order to facilitate news coverage and the board grants the request, the news media making the request are responsible for paying any additional costs which may be involved in securing an alternate site. The board must act in good faith in carrying out these provisions.

If the board holds a meeting by conference telephone call or similar means, it will provide some means for members of the public to listen to the meeting. Notice of an electronic meeting must specify how public access will be provided. The board may charge each listener a fee of up to \$25.00 to defray the cost.

In the event representatives of the news media are unable to attend a meeting, media representatives may be provided a verbal or written summary of important board actions. Board members will refer all individuals seeking information about board meetings to the superintendent. All reports approved by the board will be a matter of official record and will be made available by the superintendent to media representatives and the public. Notwithstanding the public records law, reports-in-progress, including those on which the board has not taken final actions, will not be released as an "official board document" by any committee, board, or staff member unless the board specifically authorizes its release as a "tentative report."

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.11, -318.15, -318.16