

1. Use option 1 under the Public Relations section.
2. Add the Community Engagement section.

# DRAFT UPDATE

Oak Park School District 97

8:10

## Community Relations

### Connection with the Community

#### Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the School Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson and ~~The Superintendent or designee shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will:~~

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. Secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's good will, respect, and confidence.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media ~~provided with accurate information~~ accurately informed.
8. Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency.

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, ~~and activities, that will be sent activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website or sending to the news media.~~
2. News conferences and interviews, as requested or needed. The Board President and Superintendent will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Superintendent.
3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Superintendent, the Building Principal, and/or the author and the publication date.
4. Other efforts that highlight the District's programs and activities.

#### Community Engagement

Community engagement is a process that the Board uses to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for the District's schools.

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, determines the purpose(s) and objective(s) of any community engagement initiative. For each community engagement initiative, the Board will commit to the determined purpose(s) and objective(s), and provide information about the expected nature of the public's involvement; the Superintendent or designee will identify the effective tools and tactics that will advance the Board's purpose(s) and objective(s).

The Superintendent will: (1) at least annually, prepare a report of each community engagement initiative, and/or (2) prepare a final report of each community engagement initiative.

**Comment [A1]:** These objectives are examples and should be customized for each district.  
**OPTION 1 –** The Board may choose to replace the Public Relations section with the following: The Board President is the official spokesperson for the School Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Superintendent or designee shall plan and implement a District public relations program to keep the community informed and build support through open and authentic communications. The public relations program shall include, without limitation, media relations; internal communications; communications to the community; communications to students and parents/guardians; emergency communications in coordination with the District Safety Coordinator; the District website and social media channels; and other efforts to reach all audiences using suitable mediums  
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**Comment [A2]:** The Community Engagement subhead is a new option for boards that complete the work necessary to develop and implement a community engagement initiative. IASB has extensively researched and prepared a new report titled *Connecting with the Community: the Purpose and Process of Community Engagement as part of Effective School Board Governance*. It is now available to help school boards and superintendents understand what community engagement is, why it is critical, what they can expect to accomplish, and how to evaluate the results. Contact an IASB Field Services Director if your board is interested in Community Engagement work.

**OPTION 2 –** Choose this option to delete the section.  
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# ***DRAFT UPDATE***

The Board will periodically: (1) review whether its community engagement initiatives are achieving the identified purpose(s) and objective(s), (2) consider what, if any, modifications would improve effectiveness, and (3) determine whether to continue individual initiatives.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

ADOPTED: March 19, 2013