

## NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS

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The Board of Education encourages a policy of sound relations with the press and other communication media in the community and surrounding geographical area.

Therefore, information concerning the Waunakee Community School District and its operation is public information. The news media represents the public interest in reporting information concerning the schools. It is, therefore, in the interest of both the education community and the citizen-taxpayers of the District that there be open communications with news media.

However, in the interest of protecting the rights of individual students, employees are not to discuss individual students or families with the media unless the parent/guardian or a student of the age of majority signs a release.

In order to minimize interruptions in the school day, all requests by representatives of the media to speak to students or staff on school property or during the school day are to be referred to the building principal for approval. Generally, the building principal is to represent the school's position with the media on building issues.

Media requests regarding district-wide issues or disturbances, disruptions, or emergencies should be directed to the superintendent. Natural disasters, fires, strikes, sit-ins, bomb threats, etc. are examples of the issues that should be directed to the superintendent.

The superintendent may authorize other personnel to speak for the District.

Cross. Ref.: 188, News Media at Board Meetings  
347, Rules, Student Record Procedures

Adopted: 2/14/83

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March 1994  
July 2002

Waunakee Community School District