

## **Unity School District - Board of Education**

### **Board Policy 161**

#### **Board Member Authority**

**Last Revised 9/13/2022**

~~No member of the Board shall have power to act in the name of the Board unless so designated at an official meeting of the Board.~~

Except as expressly provided by state law or as expressly authorized by the School Board (including through the Board's duly-adopted policies), the members of the Board exercise the duties and powers of the Board as a collective body through motions, resolutions, and other official actions taken at Board meetings. Accordingly, the primary power held by individual Board members is the power to actively participate in and vote on matters that come before the Board, provided that the Board member is not abstaining from such participation and voting. The primary purpose of this policy is to identify the Board's expectations and the role and authority of individual Board members in several scenarios in which questions are likely to arise.

#### **Authority to Make Statements on Behalf of the Board and District**

The Board reserves the right to determine the Board's position on matters affecting the District and to designate and authorize one or more spokespersons to convey its positions and certain other District information. Accordingly, except as otherwise authorized by the Board, individual Board members do not speak on behalf of the Board as a collective body or on behalf of the District as an entity. In the absence of any other designation, the Board President and District Administrator are the default spokespersons for the Board and District. In addition:

- Individual board members may not make unauthorized statements that purport to commit, or that another person would reasonably interpret as committing, the Board/District to a particular course of action or to an expenditure of District funds. This includes statements that indicate or imply that a formal decision has been made when the matter in question remains under consideration or is otherwise undecided.
- When stating or explaining individual views, opinions, or positions on District-related matters, individual board members are encouraged to expressly clarify that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the Board or the District — particularly in the context of written communications, comments made to the media, or comments in public forums.