

Eugene School District 4J

Code: **BDC**
Adopted: 7/2/73
Revised: 11/2/83, 9/17/97,
12/11/02

Orig. Code(s): 1870

News Media in Executive Session

ORS 192.620 sets forth the policy that decisions of governing bodies, such as school boards, be arrived at openly so the public is informed. However, ORS 192.660 provides that the school board may hold executive sessions not open to the general public concerning certain specified matters. ORS 192.660 (3) provides that representatives of the news media shall be allowed to attend executive sessions, except those pertaining to deliberations with persons designated by the board to carry on labor negotiations; hearings on the expulsion of minor students, or examination of the confidential medical records of a student including that student's educational program; and current litigation or litigation likely to be filed, if the member of the news media is a party to the litigation or is an employee, agent or contractor of a news media organization that is a party to the litigation.. The school board requires that specific information, which is the subject of an executive session, shall remain undisclosed by the representatives of the news media (ORS 192.660 (3)).

The purpose of allowing representatives of the news media into executive sessions of the school board is to provide them access to general background information, which will assist in the understanding and reporting of the public meeting decisions made by the school board, and to assure the public that executive sessions are limited to those matters specifically defined by the Oregon Public Meetings Law as being legitimate subject for discussion during an executive session. The contents of an executive session are confidential and shall not be disclosed from the session by any representative of the news media without authorization of the school board. A violation of this restriction by a representative of the news media shall constitute good cause for excluding that representative from all future executive sessions of the board, but no such action shall be taken without the opportunity for the representative to explain his or her action and to defend himself or herself against the charge of violating the confidentiality of the executive session.

Designated representatives of each established news medium desiring to attend an executive session of the school board shall be allowed to attend, provided the subject matter of the executive session is germane to the particular news medium's usual and ordinary coverage.

The board has determined that information relating to the dismissal or disciplining of, or complaints against, school district officers, employees and staff members, or the labor negotiations conducted by the district is sensitive and representatives of student newspapers shall not attend executive sessions during which such subjects are discussed.

A news medium shall be considered established if it is published or aired on a regular basis: daily, weekly, or monthly. The student newspaper of each secondary school in the district shall be considered an established news medium.

Proper identification for the representatives of the respective news media attending executive sessions is required. This shall be in the form of a press or media card, or in the case of representatives of the

secondary school student news media, a written statement by the appropriate faculty advisor and the building principal that the person is the designated qualified representative of the medium.

The chair of the board or the superintendent may request proper identification from any person not recognized by them in attendance at an executive session of the board. The representative and the medium involved shall have the burden of establishing their right to attend the executive session under the provisions of ORS 192.660 (3) and this policy.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to attend the portions of executive sessions concerning labor negotiations at the sole discretion of the board. The board may withdraw this privilege for all representatives of the news media at any time without statement or reason.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

- [ORS 192.610 - 192.710](#)
- [ORS 332.061](#)

Cross Reference(s):

- BD -Types of Meetings