

News Media Services at Board Meetings

The Board believes that one of the paramount responsibilities of the Board is to keep the public informed of its policies and actions. Therefore, the Board encourages the attendance of press representatives at all meetings. As provided by law, representatives of the news media shall be excluded from executive sessions when such session is convened for the purpose of conferring with counsel on 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. Representatives of the news media shall also be excluded from executive sessions relating to labor negotiations and to executive sessions held pursuant to ORS 332.061 (2), hearing to expel minor students or to examine confidential medical records.

The Board chairman shall, in any executive session in which a representative of the news media is present, specifically direct the representative of the news media not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session.

To facilitate news media services at Board meetings, the Board will adhere to the following:

1. A copy of the agenda and agenda materials will be sent in advance to members of the working press who request it. Additionally, all reports approved by the Board shall be considered matters of official record and shall also be made available to the press. Reports-in-progress on which the Board has taken no final action, however, shall be released only upon the Board's authority as "tentative reports."
2. In order that the Board may transact its business with dispatch, questions from the press will not be entertained while meetings are in progress. A representative of the Board will be available after each meeting to answer reporters' questions and to clarify points of discussion and action.
3. When individual Board members receive requests from news media representatives for information about Board meetings, members shall refer the information-seekers to the Board chairman who shall be the spokesperson for the Board except as he/she specifically delegates this responsibility to others.

In the event that representatives of the news media are unable to attend a meeting, they shall be provided upon request with a summary of important Board actions.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.640](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)