

**Item N**  
**February 20, 2019**

**State Board of Education**  
**Date: 16 January 2019**  
**Item L**

## **Vermont State Board of Education**

### **Guidelines for Public Communications Outside SBE Meetings**

In public communications outside Board meetings, such as with the media, legislators, and interest groups, Board members must balance their personal rights of free speech with their roles as members of the Board.

Board members' authority exists only in duly-warned meetings of the Board or its committees. Members may not seek to influence or change the outcomes of Board decisions except in such meetings.

In all Board matters, only the Chair (or designee) is authorized to speak publicly for the Board.

Other members of the Board may publicly express their views on Board matters so long as they do so in a manner consistent with the norms of Board meetings and so long as they clarify explicitly that they speak only for themselves as individual Board members.

Approved and adopted 30 August 2017

### **Agreement pending resolution of Complaints for Declaratory Relief filed in December 2018 in response to the State Board's rulings and orders in its State Plan dated 30 November 2018:**

Notwithstanding provisions of the Board's *Guidelines for Public Communications* (30 August 2017) Board members agree that, unless subpoenaed to do so, they should not communicate publicly about the pending court proceedings until they have been resolved.

If asked, Board members will refer any inquiry for comment to their counsel, the Vermont Attorney General's Office.

Agreed by consensus, 2 January 2019  
Approved and adopted, 16 January 2019

*(draft by John Carroll, 12 January 2019)*