

BOARD MEMBER CONFIDENTIALITY



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Board Members shall remember that confidentiality and sensitivity are always necessary, even when an issue may seem minor. While the issue may seem small, people's reputations and trust are always significant.

Board Members shall keep all written materials and verbal information provided to them on matters that are confidential under State law in complete confidence to insure that the District's position is not compromised. No disclosure or mention of information in these materials shall be made to anyone other than Board Members, the Executive Officer, the District General Counsel, or essential District employees designated by the Executive Officer or General Counsel to handle such confidential matters.

Matters which lawfully can be discussed in closed session are privileged and confidential and may not be disclosed by anyone, including Board Members, without the approval of a majority of the Governing Board.

Sanctions may be imposed for violation of the Board's confidentiality rules, including (1) public censure of the individual Board Member by a majority of the Board, (2) removal of the individual Board Member from committee assignments, and (3) obtaining an injunction against the individual Board Member's disclosures. In addition, Government Code section 1098 provides that willful and knowing disclosure by a public officer of confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties for pecuniary gain is a misdemeanor.