

NEWS MEDIA SERVICES AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Toronto City Schools Board of Education has a commitment to keep the community informed of the functioning of its schools. The Board also desires to conduct its business without undue interference of its sessions by members of the news media.

The Board encourages the attendance of representatives from the news media at all Board meetings, except those officially declared as executive sessions of the Board.

Media Coverage of Board Meetings

The Board desires to cooperate with the news media in providing the public with pertinent facts concerning the District. The Superintendent or his/her designee is the basic and reliable source to which the news media may turn for information regarding the District and its schools.

Facilities Provided

Physical facilities will be designated in the board room for recording by both the public and the media. In the event there is an overflow crowd, space will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The following rules shall apply during public sessions of Board meetings:

- A. Recording of public sessions of the Board of Education by means of any electronic recording device may be made with the permission of the Board. Permission must be obtained at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting unless specifically granted by the Board President.
- B. All such recording shall be subject to the following restrictions:
 1. **Personal Interviews**: Interviews may be conducted outside the board room or after the meeting is concluded.
 2. **Audio-Tape Recorders**: Such devices must be equipped with a self-contained power unit. Persons using such devices must remain in the area designated for such recording.
 3. **Audio-Visual Devices**:
 - a. Media persons using such devices must agree to make their audio-visual available for use by other members of the news media.

- b. In the event that more than one member of the news media requests permission to use such devices, every effort will be made to grant permission.
 - c. Persons using such devices shall not be permitted to focus on any member of the public while such person is addressing the Board or otherwise participating in the business of the session.
 - d. Persons using such devices shall not be permitted to pan the audience more than one time per session.
 - e. Members of the Board may request any person using such devices not to focus upon him/her while participating in the business of the session.
 - f. Unless granted permission by the Board President, persons using such devices must remain in the area designated so as not to distract participants or impede the orderly progress of the session.
- C. Persons who violate these regulations may:
- 1. Be asked to refrain from the conduct which has violated these regulations;
 - 2. Be asked to remove the recording device from the room; or
 - 3. Be asked to leave Board property.