

The District shall cooperate with all responsible news media representatives in order that the public may be informed about the operations of its schools.

News Releases

Routine news and information concerning school events and programs may be released to the news media—both print and broadcast—by or with the approval of the administrator of the school or program concerned. Examples of such routine news are: athletic events, recreation or community education activities, and school social events that relate only to a particular school.

All other news releases prepared for public distribution that represent positions of the District and the Board of Education or are otherwise under the auspices of the Flint Community Schools, prepared either by employees or students of the District, shall be coordinated through the Communications Office and must have the approval of the Superintendent prior to release.

News Conferences

All news conferences shall be called by the Superintendent and shall be scheduled in such a manner that they do not disrupt the regular learning activities of the schools.

Contacts between the news media and students shall be restricted during periods in which students are in the custody of the Flint Community Schools. Only with the expressed consent of principals and/or parents/guardians shall news media representatives directly interview students. Staff members shall observe the following procedures when releasing information to the news media, except in regard to athletic events, recreation or community education activities, and school social events:

1. If a staff member is approached by the news media concerning a feature story or program involving that staff member or his/her building, a request for

approval shall be made to the building principal, who shall request authorization from the Superintendent

2. If a staff member wishes to initiate a feature story for the news media, he/she should discuss the story with the building principal. If it is agreed that the project will be pursued, the principal shall seek the Superintendent's approval. If the Superintendent approves, he/she shall contact the appropriate media representative(s) or authorize the principal to do so; and
3. Teachers are asked not to contact the media directly, but to work through the building principal on all news releases or feature stories.

Approved: July 11, 2001

Reviewed: