

BCB – BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As elected officials, Board members owe a duty of loyalty to the general public in protecting the school district's interests. Therefore, the Board declares that a conflict of interest is a personal, pecuniary interest that is immediate, definite, demonstrable, and which is or may be in conflict with the public interest.

A board member who has a personal or private interest in a matter proposed or pending before the Board will disclose such interest to the Board, will not deliberate on the matter, will not vote on the matter, and will not attempt to influence other members of the Board regarding the matter. Supplies, materials, or services shall not be purchased from any member of the Board, or from a member of their household, or from a firm in which the Board member or member of their household hold a major interest. Additionally, Board members should refrain from engaging in conduct or actions, that give the appearance of a conflict of interest, embarrass the Board, or personally embarrass another Board member. It is not the intent of this policy to prevent the District from contracting with corporations or businesses with which a Board member is an employee. The policy is designed to prevent placing a Board member in a position where their interest in the public schools and their interest in their place of employment (or other indirect interest) might conflict, and to avoid appearances of conflict of interest even though such conflict may not exist. RSA 95:1 requires that "No person holding a public office, as such, in state or any political subdivision governmental service shall, by contract or otherwise, except by open competitive bidding, buy real estate, sell or buy goods, commodities, or other personal property of a value in excess of \$200 at any one sale to or from the state or political subdivision under which he holds his public office." Through the use of open competitive bidding or recusal of any Board member who has a conflict of interest, the Board will seek to obtain the best value for the district while avoiding impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.

Nepotism

The Board may not employ a certified or other employee if that certified or other employee is the parent, sibling, spouse/partner, child, or in-law relative of the Superintendent or any member of the Board. This paragraph shall also apply to any other person who shares the expenses of daily living with the Superintendent or any member of the Board.

This shall not apply to any person within such relationship or relationships who has been regularly employed in the District or SAU prior to the inception of the relationship, the adoption of this policy, or a Board member's election.

Revised: December 13, 2021
Adopted: Date Not Recorded (Souhegan)