

Board Operations

Board Members

Conflict of Interest

A representative of all the citizens in the District, the School Board is responsible for serving the best interests of the community and its students, and utilizing all available resources toward that end. The oath of office requires that Board members uphold the laws and Constitutions of the United States and State of Wisconsin.

In addition, School Board members shall not use their office to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for their private benefit, or for the benefit of their immediate family, or for any organization with which they are associated. Board members recognize that conflicts of interest are to be avoided if the public's confidence in the School Board, and the School District's operations as a whole, is to be maintained. The intent of this policy is to preclude the possibility that a Board member may be placed in a situation where his/her personal interests may affect his/her judgment on matters relating to District operations, and to remind Board members of their duty to comply with statutory provisions, including Wis. Stat. 19.42 *et seq.*, and 946.10 *et seq.*, which define school board members' legal and ethical obligations.

The following applies to School Board members:

1. No School Board member may be employed by the School District in any capacity.
2. No School Board member may take any action substantially affecting a matter in which the official, a member of his/her immediate family, or an organization with which the Board member is associated has a substantial financial interest.
3. No School Board member shall use his/her office in a way that produces or assists in the production of a substantial benefit, direct or indirect, for the Board member, members of his/her immediate family, either separately or together, or an organization with which the Board member is associated.
4. No School Board member shall participate in the making of a contract with the District, in either his/her private or official capacity, in which the Board member has a pecuniary interest, either direct or indirect.
5. If a School Board member has a pecuniary interest, either direct or indirect, in a matter before the Board, or the matter substantially affects the financial interest of a School Board member, or a member of his/her immediate family, or an organization with which the Board member is associated, the Board member shall abstain from discussion, consideration, action, or voting on the matter regardless of the monetary amount involved.
6. No School Board member shall solicit or accept any gift or favor of any value that is intended or may be perceived to be intended to influence him/her in the discharge of his/her duties. This provision shall not prohibit contributions to the election campaign of a candidate for the School Board.
7. No School Board member may, directly or by means of an agent, give, or offer or promise to give, or withhold, or offer to promise to withhold, his/her vote or influence, or promise to take or refrain from taking, official action with respect to any proposed or pending matter in consideration of, or upon condition that, any other person make, or refrain from making, a political contribution, or

provide or refrain from providing any service or other thing of value, to or for the benefit of any School Board member, candidate for School Board, or as otherwise prohibited by law.

8. No School Board member shall use confidential District information concerning the affairs of the School District for personal gain for him/herself or others.

A conflict of interest is defined as a conflict between the private interests of a Board member and the official responsibilities of his/her elected position. Immediate family means an individual's spouse and any relative by marriage, lineal descent or adoption, who receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half (1/2) of his/her support from the School Board member, or from whom the School Board member receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half (1/2) of his/her support. An associated organization includes any organization in which a School Board member, or a member of his/her immediate family, is a director, officer or trustee, or owns or controls, directly or indirectly, at least ten percent (10%) of the outstanding equity, or of which the Board member, or a member of his/her immediate family, is an authorized representative or agent.

Policy Approved: December 18, 1985

Policy Revised: December 16, 2013