

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Board service is a matter of public trust. In making decisions that affect the Windham Raymond School District, Board members have the duty to act in the interest of the common good and for the benefit of the people they represent. A Board member should do nothing to give the impression that his/her position or vote on an issue is influenced by anything other than a fair consideration of all sides of a question.

A Board member shall not have any direct or indirect pecuniary interest (as defined by law) in a contract with the school unit, nor shall he/she furnish directly any labor, equipment or supplies to the unit.

In the event that a Board member is employed by a corporation or business, or has a secondary interest in a corporation or business which furnishes goods or services to the schools, the Board member shall declare his /her secondary interest and refrain from debating or voting upon the question of contracting with the company.

It is not the intent of this policy to prevent a Board member from voting or the school unit from contracting with a corporation or business because a Board member is an employee of that firm. The policy is designed to prevent the placing of Board members in a position where their interest in public schools and their places of employment might conflict and to avoid appearances of conflict of interest even though such conflict may not exist.

Board members shall attempt to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest by disclosure and/or by abstention. The Secretary of the Board shall record in the minutes of the meeting the member's disclosure and abstention from taking part in the decision in which he/she has an interest.

A member of the Board or spouse of a member may not be an employee in a public school within the jurisdiction of the Board to which the member is elected.

A member of the Board, or spouse of a member, may not serve as a volunteer when that volunteer has primary responsibility for a curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular program or activity and reports directly to the Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director or other school administrator in a public school within the jurisdiction of the Board to which the member is elected.

Volunteer activities of a member of the Board or member's spouse other than in roles that are prohibited by this section are permitted.

For the purposes of this policy, the following statutory definitions apply:

- A. "Employee" means a person who receives monetary payment or benefits, no matter the amount paid or hours worked, for personal services performed for a school administrative unit.
- B. "Volunteer" means a person who performs personal services for a school administrative unit without monetary payments or benefits of any kind or amount.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1002-1004  
30-A M.R.S.A. § 2604-2606

Cross-Reference: BBA – Board of Directors Powers & Duties; BBAA – Board member Authority & Responsibilities; BCA-Board Member Code of Ethics; BCA-R – Code of Ethics Regulations

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