

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In order to instill confidence in public office and provide public accountability, School Board members shall disclose and avoid conflicts of interest involving any matter pending before the School Board. A conflict of interest exists when a member has a personal or financial interest involving any matter pending before the Board that could render the member unable to devote complete loyalty and singleness of purpose to the public interest. School board members owe the public a duty to act in the best interests of the district.

Decision Making: The Board recognizes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention, its members must vote on issues before the Board. If a board member or his or her family member may benefit personally or financially from a Board decision, that board member must provide full disclosure of the conflict or potential conflict of interest to the Board. The Board, without that member's participation, will then approve or disapprove of the member's deliberations and voting on the issue. If the Board determines a conflict of interest prohibits participation, the member shall abstain from deliberations and voting.

Appearance of Impropriety: When a situation may create the appearance of impropriety, even where state and federal laws do not require any action, the board member shall fully disclose the circumstances. The Board, without that member's participation, will then approve or disapprove of the member's deliberations and voting.

Board members who have an actual or potential conflict of interest requiring disclosure shall not seek to influence the decisions of staff or other board members in the underlying matter, or on the member's participation in the matter.

Other Duties: School Board members are expected to avoid conflicts of interest in their other duties. This includes:

- a. Confidential Information. School Board members shall not disclose or use confidential information acquired during the performance of official duties as a means to further their own personal or financial interests of the interests of a family member.
 - b. Gifts. School Board members shall not accept a gift or economic benefit that would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person or where board members know or should know the gift is offered for the purpose of influencing or rewarding official action.
 - c. Business Dealings with Staff. School Board members shall not engage in financial transactions for private business purposes with district staff whom board members directly or indirectly supervise that would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person or where board members know or should know the financial transaction is offered for the purpose of influencing or rewarding official action.
 - d. Compensation for Services. School Board members shall not receive any compensation for services rendered to the district from any source, except compensation for serving on the School Board and reimbursement of expenses incurred as a board member, as allowed by policy and law.
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Other Legal Obligations. School Board members shall comply with state and federal laws pertaining to conflicts of interest. Nothing in this policy restricts or affects board members' duties to comply with those laws.

While serving on the school board, a member may not be employed by the school board. An immediate family member of a Board member may be employed by the district, if he/she is the most qualified applicant, and has been approved by the Board, and such employment has received the written approval of the Commissioner of Education.

Legal References:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.08.131 Disqualification from voting for conflict of interest

14.14.140 Restriction on employment

Reviewed: May 16, 2016
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