

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BCB
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BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As elected officials, the Oyster River Cooperative School 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, and 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. 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. It is the responsibility of the Board Member to declare a conflict of interest and to recuse themselves accordingly.

Relatives of the superintendent or School Board Members are not automatically disqualified from employment with the school district.

However, the superintendent or Board Member shall declare their relationship with the job applicant and will refrain from debating, discussing, or voting on a nomination or other issue. The job applicant is expected to declare their relationship with the Board Member as well.

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

Legal References:

Marsh v. Hanover, 113 NH 667 (1973) and
Atherton v. Concord, 109 NH 164 (1968)