

Series 9000 – Bylaws of the Board

2. Members

F. Conflict of Interest

Board members shall comply with state statute, Suffield Town Charter and Suffield Code of Ethics regarding conflict of interest. Members should attempt to avoid situations which might have even the appearance of a conflict. Two areas of Board operations must be guarded with particular care in order that there be no real or seeming conflict of interest. These are purchasing and hiring of new personnel. Therefore:

1. No member of the Board shall have any direct pecuniary interest in a contract with the school district, nor shall he/she furnish directly any labor, equipment, or supplies to the district. It is not the intent of this bylaw to prevent the district from contracting with corporations or businesses because a Board member is an employee of the firm. However, in such instances the member may be expected to declare his/her association with the firm and will refrain from debating or voting on the question.
2. If a member of the immediate family of a Board member – specifically parent/guardian, spouse, child, sibling or grandchild – is being considered for employment, that member shall disqualify him/herself from participation in discussion or vote.
3. The Board shall not give preferential treatment to companies in which town officials or paid town employees have a major financial interest or to companies by which they are employed.
4. No Board member shall use his or her position to influence an employment or contractual decision other than those routinely made by the Board itself.
5. No member of the Board of Education may be employed for compensation by this district. Any Board member wishing to apply for employment within the district, in any capacity, shall resign his/her seat prior to submission of an application.

It is advised that individuals fully disclose their position as both a Board of Education member and a member or officer of any volunteer foundation or organization that may be seen as having involvement or interest with the Suffield Public Schools. In the rare circumstance where there could be a proposed Board action related specifically to the individual in his or her capacity as a member or officer of such foundation or organization, the individual shall recuse him or herself from debate and/or resultant vote.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 7-479 Conflicts of interest
 10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception
 10-232 Restrictions on employment of members of the board of Education

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 2, 1997
 Bylaw revised: June 15, 2009
 July 18, 2012, August 6, 2018

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Suffield, Connecticut