



SECTION I: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1050

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Purpose: To clarify and prohibit potential conflicts of interest for School Board Members.

District School Board Members are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards in the conduct of District affairs.

A situation presenting a conflict of interest may take many different forms. No Board Member should use the District affiliation for private or personal advantage. No Board Member should have any outside business interests which might, in fact or appearance, interfere with the individual's loyalty to the District. No Board Member should have any interest or association that interferes with, or appears to impair, the independent exercise of the Member's judgment in the best interests of the District.

Contracts with Board Member or Business in Which Board Member Has an Interest

The District will not enter into any contract with a Board Member or with any company, individual, business concern, and other entity in which any Board Member is directly or indirectly interested, except as otherwise permitted by Oklahoma law.

The Minute Clerk will request each new Board Member to provide a statement of companies, individuals, business concerns, and other entities in which the new Board member has an interest.

In addition, the Minute Clerk will annually request a similar statement from each incumbent Board Member. These statements will be provided to the District's Purchasing office. Any listed entity will be placed on a "no bid" list as long as the Board Member continues on the Board or until the Board Member notifies the Minute Clerk that the affiliation no longer exists.

Questions concerning the application of this portion of this policy will be referred to the Board's attorney for a written opinion.

Gifts and Favors

A Board Member shall not, directly or indirectly, accept any gift, payment, fee, service, rebate, valuable privilege, hospitality, meal, entertainment, admission ticket, flowers, discount, travel, sporting event (including golf and other social athletic events), vacation, use of vacation property, loan (other than a conventional loan from a lending institution) or other favor from any person or business organization that does, or seeks to do business, with the District. No Board Member shall, directly or indirectly, accept or convert anything of value in exchange for referral of third parties to any such person or business organization.

Board Members MAY accept common courtesies, gifts, or meals of \$125 or less as usually associated with accepted business practices. Care should be taken to avoid accepting frequent common courtesies or gifts from the same person or business organization that does, or seeks to do business, with the District. Additionally, the acceptance of promotional and advertising novelties and tickets specifically used for advertising purposes is permitted. If an unsolicited gift of more than nominal value is offered or received, it must be declined or returned.



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*An offer of an impermissible gift or favor shall be reported promptly, in writing, to the Chief Financial Officer and the school district attorney.

Under NO circumstances is it permissible to accept a gift of cash or cash equivalents (for example: gift certificates, stocks or other forms of marketable securities).

Travel

Board Members will not accept or participate in travel that is paid or provided by a vendor or prospective vendor, even if the travel is deemed to benefit the District. Vendors or prospective vendors who extend travel opportunities to Board members will be advised of this policy.

Unlawful or Unethical Payments

A Board Member shall not give, or promise to give, any property, gift, business favor, or anything of value to another person or entity if the giving of such items is, or appears to be, improper or unethical.

It is in the best interest of the District to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. The District's concern is not only whether activity is technically legal or customary, but also whether or not the public might reasonably view such an act as improper or unethical if all the circumstances were fairly disclosed. The District intends to follow a uniform practice in all areas of its operation consistent with its basic policy.

Competition

Competition with the District, directly or indirectly, in the purchase or sale of property or interests in property is prohibited.

Source: *Broken Arrow Board of Education policy adoption, July 13, 2009.*
 Broken Arrow Board of Education policy revised February 27, 2012.