



Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology
Board Conflict of Interest Policy

CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING
BOARD CONFLICT OF INTEREST
POLICY

The Governing Board (the “**Board**”) Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology, Inc. Governing Board (the “**School**”) shall adhere to these following Conflict of Interest policy.

Domain VII: Financial Governance

1. No Board member shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, employment for himself or herself, any of his or her immediate family members, or others.
2. No Board member shall act in his or her official capacity in any matter in which he or she, any of his or her immediate family members, or any business organization in which he or she has a material financial interest, that would reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity or independence of judgment.
3. No Board member shall solicit or accept or knowingly allow any of his or her immediate family members or any business organization in which he or she has an interest to solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing that Board member in the discharge of his or her official duties. For purposes of this paragraph, a gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value shall not include the following items:
 - a. Food or beverage consumed at a single meal or event;
 - b. Legitimate salary, benefits, fees, commissions, or expenses associated with a recipient's nonpublic business, employment, trade, or profession;
 - c. An award, plaque, certificate, memento, or similar item given in recognition of the recipient's civic, charitable, political, professional, or public service;
 - d. Food, beverages, and registration at group events to which all members of an agency, as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.2, are invited. An agency shall include the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia Senate, committees and subcommittees of such bodies, and the governing body of each political subdivision of this state;
 - e. Actual and reasonable expenses for food, beverages, travel, lodging, and registration for a meeting which are provided to permit participation or speaking at the meeting;
 - f. A commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business;
 - g. Any gift with a value less than \$100.00;

- h. Promotional items generally distributed to the general public or to public officers;
 - i. A gift from a member of the Board member's immediate family; or
 - j. Food, beverage, or expenses afforded public officers, members of their immediate families, or others that are associated with normal and customary business or social functions or activities.
4. No Board member shall use, or knowingly allow to be used, his or her official position or any information not generally available to the members of the public which he or she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his or her official position for the purpose of securing financial gain for himself or herself, any of his or her immediate family members, or any business organization with which he or she is associated.
 5. No Board member or any of his or her immediate family members or any business organization in which he or she has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the Board in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter pending before the Board on which he or she serves.
 6. No Board member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for information on behalf of a community member if no fee, reward, or other thing of value is promised to, given to, or accepted by the board member or any of his or her immediate family members in return therefor.
 7. Except for Section 8 below, no Board member shall be deemed in conflict with this policy if, by reason of his or her participation in any matter required to be voted upon by the Board, no material or monetary gain accrues to him or her as a member of any profession, occupation, or group to any greater extent than any gain could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of that profession, occupation, or group.
 8. No Board member may be an officer or serve on the board of directors of any organization that sells goods or services to the School.
 9. The Board may not do business with a bank or financial institution where a Board member is an employee, stockholder, director or officer when such member owns 30% or more stock in that institution.
 10. No Board member may have a financial interest in school buses, bus equipment or supplies, provide services for buses owned by the board, or sell gasoline to the board from a corporation in which the Board member is a shareholder.
 11. No Board member shall accept a monetary fee or honorarium in excess of \$101.00 for a speaking engagement, participation in a seminar, discussion panel, or other activity which directly relates to the official duties of that public officer or the office of that public officer. Actual and reasonable expenses for food, beverages, travel, lodging, and registration for a meeting which are provided to permit participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting shall not be monetary fees or honoraria.

Conduct As Board Member

1. No Board member shall disclose or discuss any information which is subject to attorney-client privilege belonging to the charter school governing board to or with any person other than other Board members, the Board attorney, the school leader, or persons designated by the school leader for such purposes unless such privilege has been waived by a majority vote of the whole Board.
2. No Board member shall vote on the employment or promotion of any of his or her immediate family members. No immediate family member of a board member may be employed or promoted unless a public, recorded vote is taken separately from all other personnel matters.
3. No Board member may be employed in any position in the charter school in which they serve.
4. No Board member shall be employed by the State Department of Education or serve concurrently as a member of the State Board of Education.
5. No Board member shall serve simultaneously on the governing body of a public local school district or of a private elementary or secondary educational institution that actively seeks funding from any government entity or private entity from which the School seeks funding.
6. Each member of this Board understands and acknowledges that no person shall be eligible to serve on the Board unless he or she:
 - a. Has read and understands the code of ethics and the conflict of interest provisions applicable to members of charter school governing boards and has agreed to abide by them; and
 - b. Has agreed to annually disclose compliance with the State Board of Education's policy on training for members of charter school governing boards, the code of ethics of charter school governing boards, and the conflict of interest provisions applicable to members of charter school governing boards.

Approval

Policy Approval Date: February 18, 2021

Policy Effective Date: February 18, 2021