

**Required**

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED  
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Board of Directors' Policy**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<u>A1</u>
<b>WARNED:</b>	<u>12.21.22</u>
<b>ADOPTED:</b>	<u>1.18.23</u>
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	<u>1.18.23</u>

**BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

---

Members of the board recognize the ethical duty of all public officers to avoid conflicts of interest. In the case of school board members, this duty is extended by Vermont law to include a requirement that boards adopt policies and procedures to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest. In order to comply with the obligations thus imposed, the board and its members will adhere to the following standards.

1. Board members will be familiar with the Vermont School Boards Association Codes of Ethics, and will observe their provisions.
2. Board members will be familiar with, and adhere to, those provisions of Vermont education law that define school board powers and govern board member compensation and public bidding processes.
3. A board member will do nothing intended to give the false impression that they have the authority to make decisions or take action on behalf of the board or the school administration.
4. A board member will not take any action that is intended to give the impression that they would represent special interests or partisan politics for personal gain.
5. A board member will not use their position on the board in any manner intended to unfairly promote personal fiduciary and/or financial interest or the fiduciary and/or financial interests of family members, friends or supporters.
6. A board member will not accept anything of value in return for taking particular positions on matters before the board.
7. A board member will do nothing intended to leave the impression that their position on any issue can be influenced by anything other than a fair presentation of all sides of the question.

When a board member becomes aware of involvement in a conflict of interest as defined in state law or this policy, they will declare the nature and extent of the conflict or appearance of conflict for inclusion in the board minutes, and will abstain from voting or participating in the discussion of the issue giving rise to the conflict.

When a conflict of interest claim against a board member is brought to the board in writing and

signed by another board member or a member of the public, and the board member against whom the claim is made does not concur that a conflict in fact exists, the following board procedures will be followed.

1. Upon a majority vote of the remaining board members, or upon order of the chair, the board will hold an informal hearing on the conflict of interest claim, giving both the board member and the person bringing the claim an opportunity to be heard.
2. At the conclusion of the informal hearing, the remaining board members will determine by majority vote to take one of the following actions:
  - A. Issue a public finding that the conflict of interest charge is not supported by the evidence and is therefore dismissed.
  - B. Issue a public finding that the conflict of interest charge is supported by the evidence and that the member should disqualify them from voting or otherwise participating in the board deliberations or decision related to that issue, as required by Vermont statute.
  - C. Issue a public finding that the conflict of interest charge is supported by the evidence, and in addition to disqualifying them from voting or otherwise participating in the board deliberations or decision, the board member should be formally censured or subjected to such other action as may be allowed by law.

Legal References: 16 V.S.A. §§ 557, 558, 559, 563(20), 262(c)