

Bylaws of the Board

Conflict of Interest

The Board of Education desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the District and the public. Accordingly, no Board member, District employee, or other person in a designated position shall participate in the making of any decision for the District when the decision will or may be affected by his/her financial, family, or other personal interest or consideration. In accordance with law, Board members and designated employees shall disclose any conflict of interest and, as necessary, shall abstain from participating in the decision.

Even if a prohibited conflict of interest does not exist, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect his/her relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which his/her relative belongs. Relative means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

The Board shall adopt for the District a conflict of interest code, that incorporates the provisions of 2 CCR 18730 by reference, specifies the District's designated positions, and provides the disclosure categories required for each position. The conflict of interest code shall be submitted to the District's code reviewing body for approval, in accordance with Government Code 87303 and within the deadline for submission established by the code reviewing body. (Government Code 87303)

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review the District's conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body or, if no change is required, the Board shall submit a written statement to that effect. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in the District's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new designated positions, changes to the duties assigned to existing positions, amendments, or revisions, the amended code shall be submitted to the code

reviewing body within 90 days after the changed circumstances necessitating the amendments have become apparent. (Government Code 87306)

## **BB 9270(b)**

When reviewing and preparing the District's conflict of interest code, the Superintendent or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

Board members and designated employees shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in the District's conflict of interest code. The required Statement of Economic Interests, Completed Form 700s, are available through the Superintendent's Office or the County of Orange in the office of the Clerk of the Board. A Board member who leaves office or a designated employee who leaves District employment shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last statement and the date of leaving office or District employment. (Government Code 87302, 87302.6)

### **Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act**

A District official, including a Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use an official position to influence a governmental decision in which the official knows or has reason to know that he/she has a disqualifying conflict of interest. A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a "reasonably foreseeable material financial effect," which is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the District official, the District official's immediate family, or any financial interest described in 2 CCR 18700. (Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700; - 18707)

A Board member, or designated employee, or other person in a designated position makes a governmental decision when he/she, acting within the authority of his/her office or position, authorizes or directs any action on a matter, votes or provides information or opinion on it, contacts or appears before a District official for the purpose of affecting the decision, or takes any other action specified in 2 CCR 18704.

However, a Board member shall participate in the making of a contract in which he/she has a financial interest if his/her participation is required by the rule of necessity or legally required participation pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18705.

A Board member who has a disqualifying conflict of interest on an agenda item that will be heard in an open meeting of the Board shall abstain from voting on the matter. He/she may remain on the dais, but his/her presence shall not be counted towards achieving a quorum for that matter. A Board member with a disqualifying conflict of interest shall not be present during a closed session meeting of the Board when the decision is considered and shall not obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the issue. (2 CCR 18702.1)

### **Conflict of Interest from Campaign Contributions**

To avoid improper influence over the Board's decision-making involving the issuance of a license, permit, or other entitlements for use, including a contract, district officers, which includes Board members or agency heads, shall comply with Government Code 84308, including the following: (Government Code 84308)

1. A district officer is prohibited from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$250 from any party or participant to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, including a contract, or from that person's agent, while the proceeding is pending before the Board and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding if the Board member knows or has reason to know that the party or participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision.
2. Any district officer who received a contribution of more than \$250 from a party or participant in the preceding 12 months shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding prior to the Board rendering a decision in the proceeding. If the district officer willfully or knowingly received the contribution and knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision, the district officer shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the official position to influence the Board's decision.
3. A district officer who receives a contribution that would otherwise require disqualification as described in Item #2 above may participate in the proceeding if the contribution is returned within 30 days from the time the district officer knows or should have known about the contribution and the proceeding.
4. A district officer who unknowingly accepts, solicits, or directs a contribution of more than \$250 during the 12 months after the date of the Board's final decision on the proceeding may cure the violation by returning the contribution, or the portion exceeding \$250, within 14 days of accepting, soliciting, or directing the contribution, provided the district officer did not knowingly or willfully accept, solicit, or direct the prohibited contribution. The district officer shall maintain records of curing the violation.

The provisions in Government Code 84308 as specified above do not apply to labor contracts, competitively bid contracts, and personal employment contracts. (Government Code 84308)

### **Additional Requirements for Boards that Manage Public Investments**

Any Board member who manages public investments pursuant to Government Code 87200 and who has a financial interest in a decision shall, upon identifying a conflict or potential conflict of interest and immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following: (Government Code 87105; 2 CCR 18707)

## **BB 9270(d)**

1. Publicly identify each financial interest that gives rise to the conflict or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address of a residence is not required.
2. Not discuss or vote on the matter, or otherwise act in violation of Government Code 87100. The Board member shall not be counted toward achieving a quorum while the item is discussed.

However, the Board member may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on it and may leave the dais to speak from the same area as members of the public. The Board member may listen to the public discussion and deliberations of the matter with members of the public.

3. Leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded, unless the matter has been placed on the portion of the agenda reserved for uncontested matters.

If the item is on the consent calendar, the Board member must recuse himself/herself from discussing or voting on that matter, but the Board member is not required to leave the room during consideration of the consent calendar.

4. If the Board's decision is made during closed session, disclose his/her interest orally during the open session preceding the closed session. This disclosure shall be limited to a declaration that his/her recusal is because of a conflict of interest pursuant to Government Code 87100. He/she shall not be present when the item is considered in closed session and shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the Board's decision.

### **Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090 - Financial Interest in a Contract**

Board members, employees, or district consultants shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board on behalf of the District, including in the development, preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, planning, reasoning, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a Board member has such a financial interest in a contract made by the Board, the contract is void.

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which he/she has only a "remote interest," as specified in Government Code 1091, if the interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member or District official to enter into the contract. (Government Code 1091)

In addition, a Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which his/her interest is a "noninterest" as defined in Government Code 1091.5. Noninterest includes a Board member's interest in being reimbursed for his/her actual and necessary expenses

incurred in the performance of his/her official duties, in the employment of his/her spouse/registered domestic partner who has been a District employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment, or in any other applicable circumstance specified in Government Code 1091.5.

### **Common Law Doctrine against Conflict of Interest**

A Board member shall abstain from any official action in which his/her private or personal interest may conflict with his/her official duties.

### **Incompatible Offices and Activities**

Board members shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office, which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of the District. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

### **Gifts**

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitation on gifts does not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays, and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

In addition, the limitation on gifts does not apply to informational materials such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars, and periodicals. (Government Code 82028)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the current gift limitation except when: (Government Code 89506)

1. The travel is in connection with a speech given by a Board member or designated employee, provided the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech and the travel is within the United States.
2. The travel is provided by a person or agency specified in Government Code 89506, including a government, governmental agency or authority, bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 203, or nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Gifts of travel exempted from the gift limitation, as described in items #1 and 2 above, shall nevertheless be reportable on the recipient's Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 as required by law.

**BB 9270(f)**

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the District for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

Gift - Government Code section 82028 defines gift as follows:

"Gift" means, except as provided below, any payment to the extent that consideration of equal or greater value is not received and includes a rebate or discount in the price of anything of value unless the rebate or discount is made in the regular course of business to members of the public without regard to official status. Any person, other than a defendant in a criminal action, who claims that a payment is not a gift by reason of receipt of consideration has the burden of proving that the consideration received is of equal or greater value.

The term "gift" does not include:

- (a) Informational material such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars, or periodicals. No payment for travel or reimbursement for any expenses shall be deemed "informational material";
- (b) Gifts which are not used and which, within 30 days after receipt, are returned to the donor or delivered to a nonprofit entity exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code without being claimed as a charitable contribution for tax purposes;
- (c) Gifts from an individual's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, first cousin or the spouse of any such person; provided that a gift from any such person shall be considered a gift if the donor is acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not covered by this paragraph;
- (d) Campaign contributions required to be reported under Chapter 4 of the California Political Reform Act;
- (e) Any devise or inheritance;
- (f) Personalized plaques and trophies with an individual value of less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

Further information may be obtained from the Superintendent's designee regarding reporting of specific types of gifts based upon the Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700 as well as in Cal. Code of Regs. tit. 2, §§ 18940 and following.

**Honoraria**

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any

public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term honorarium does not include: (Government Code 89501)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bonafide business, trade, or profession, unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches
2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the District for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes

### **Loans to Public Officials**

(A) No elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of his or her election to office through the date that he or she vacates office, receive a personal loan from any officer, employee, member, or consultant of the state or local government agency in which the elected officer holds office or over which the elected officer's agency has direction and control.

(B) No public official who is exempt from the state civil service system pursuant to subdivisions (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of section 4 of Article VII of the Constitution shall, while he or she holds office, receive a personal loan from any officer, employee, member, or consultant of the state or local government agency in which the public official holds office or over which the public official's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made to a public official whose duties are solely secretarial, clerical, or manual.

(C) No elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of his or her election to office through the date that he or she vacates office, receive a personal loan from any person who has a contract with the state or local government agency to which that elected officer has been elected or over which that elected officer's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made by banks or other financial institutions or to any indebtedness created as part of a retail installment or credit card transaction if the loan is made or the indebtedness created in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to the elected officer's official status.

(D) No public official who is exempt from the state civil service system pursuant to subdivisions (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution, shall, while he or she holds office, receive a personal loan from any person who has a contract with the state or local government agency to which that elected officer has been elected or over which that elected officer's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made by banks or other financial institutions or to any indebtedness created as part of a retail installment or credit card transaction if the loan is made or the indebtedness created in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to the elected

officer's official status. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made to a public official whose duties are solely secretarial, clerical, or manual.

(E) This section shall not apply to the following:

1. Loans made to the campaign committee of an elected officer or candidate for elective office.
2. Loans made by a public official's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such persons, provided that the person making the loan is not acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not otherwise exempted under this section.
3. Loans from a person which, in the aggregate, do not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) at any given time.
4. Loans made, or offered in writing, before January 1, 1998.

### **Loan Terms**

(A) Except as set forth in subdivision (B), no elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of his or her election to office through the date he or she vacates office, receive a personal loan of five hundred (\$500) or more, except when the loan is in writing and clearly states the terms of the loan, including the parties to the loan agreement, date of the loan, amount of the loan, term of the loan, date or dates when payments shall be due on the loan and the amount of the payments, and the rate of interest paid on the loan.

(B) This section shall not apply to the following types of loans:

1. Loans made to the campaign committee of the elected officer.
2. Loans made to the elected officer by his or her spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such person, provided that the person making the loan is not acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not otherwise exempted under this section.
3. Loans made, or offered in writing, before January 1, 1998.
4. Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from any other provision of Title 9 of the Government Code.



**Personal Loans**

(A) Except as set forth in subdivision (B), a personal loan received by any designated employee shall become a gift to the designated employee for the purposes of this section in the following circumstances:

1. If the loan has a defined date or dates for repayment when the statute of limitations for filing an action for default has expired.
2. If the loan has no defined date or dates for repayment when one year has elapsed from the later of the following:
  - (a) The date the loan was made.
  - (b) The date the last payment of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more was made on the loan,
  - (c) The date upon which the debtor has made payments on the loan aggregating to less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) during the previous 12 months.

(B) This section shall not apply to the following types of loans:

- (1) A loan made to the campaign committee of an elected officer or a candidate for elective office.
- (2) A loan that would otherwise not be a gift as defined in this title.
- (3) A loan that would otherwise be a gift as set forth under subdivision (A), but on which the creditor has taken reasonable action to collect the balance due.
- (4) A loan that would otherwise be a gift as set forth under subdivision (A), but on which the creditor, based on reasonable business considerations, has not undertaken collection action. Except in a criminal action, a creditor who claims that a loan is not a gift on the basis of this paragraph has the burden of proving that the decision for not taking collection action was based on reasonable business considerations.
- (5) A loan made to a debtor who has filed for bankruptcy and the loan is ultimately discharged in bankruptcy.

(C) Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from any other provisions of Title 9 of the Government Code.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1006 Qualifications for holding office  
35107 School District employees  
35230-35240 Corrupt practices, especially:  
35233 Prohibitions applicable to members of governing boards  
41000-41003 Moneys received by School Districts  
41015 Investments

FAMILY CODE

297.5 Rights, protections, and benefits of registered domestic partners

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090-1099 Prohibitions applicable to specified officers  
1125-1129 Incompatible activities  
52334-53235.2 Ethics training  
81000-91014 Political Reform Act of 1974, especially:  
82011 Code reviewing body  
82019 Definition, designated employee  
82028 Definition, gift  
82030 Definition, income  
82033 Definition, interest in real property  
82034 Definition, investment  
84308 Campaign Disclosure  
87100-87103.6 General prohibitions  
87200-87210 Disclosure  
87300-87313 Conflict of interest code  
87460-87462 Loans to Public Officials  
87500 Statements of economic interests  
89501-89503 Honoraria and gifts  
89506 Ethics; travel  
91000-91014 Enforcement

PENAL CODE

85-88 Bribes

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18110-18997 Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, especially:18700-18707  
General prohibitions  
18438.1-18438.8 Campaign contribution-based conflicts of interest  
1700-18760 Conflicts of interest  
18722-18740 Disclosure of interests  
18753-18756 Conflict of interest codes

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orange, California

Adopted: (7-88 10-92 7-96 9-06 7-12 9-14 9-19) 8-23