

Bylaws of the Board

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Ledyard Board of Education shall adhere to all Connecticut conflict of interest laws applicable to Board members. Additionally, Board members should refrain from engaging in conduct or actions that, although not in violation of Connecticut law, give the appearance of a conflict of interest, embarrass the Board, or personally embarrass the Board member.

For the purposes of this bylaw, a Board member's "**immediate family**" includes a spouse, a domestic partner of a civil union, another person cohabitating with the person in a conjugal relationship that is not a legal marriage, children, an individual who fills or has filled the role of a parent, siblings, immediate in-laws, others considered to be members of the household and living under the same roof, or any person for whom a Board member is the primary caregiver. Apparent or actual conflicts of interest may arise when hiring personnel, purchasing materials or services, or gathering information regarding Board employees. To avoid any such appearances of impropriety, Board members are required to adhere to the following provisions:

1. No member of the Board shall seek or accept employment for compensation by the Board of Education in any position within Ledyard Public Schools. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-232, if a member of the Board does obtain such employment, the Board member shall immediately be considered to have resigned his or her Board membership.
2. If a member of a Board member's immediate family, or another person otherwise related by blood or marriage to a Board member, is being considered for employment by the Board, the Board member shall refrain from participating in discussion, voting and otherwise attempting to influence other Board members with regard to that person's employment.
3. No Board member shall use his or her position on the Board to influence a non-Board member in an employment or contractual decision; nor shall a Board member use his or her position on the Board to influence a Board member in employment or contractual decisions other than those routinely made by the Board.
4. No Board member shall have a direct pecuniary interest in a contract with the District. This prohibition includes directly furnishing any labor, services, equipment, or supplies to the District for compensation. This bylaw does not, however, prohibit the District from contracting with corporations or businesses which employ or are associated with a Board member, provided that the Board member declares to the Board his or her employment or association with such business or corporation and refrains from debating, voting, and otherwise attempting to influence Board members regarding the contract.
5. The Board shall not give preferential treatment to any business or corporation that employs a Ledyard Town official or paid Town employee or in which any Town official or paid Town employee has a substantial financial interest.
6. No Board member shall directly or indirectly solicit any gift, or accept or receive any gift, having a value of twenty-five dollars (\$25) or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in

which it could be reasonably inferred that the gift was intended to influence the Board member in the performance of his/her duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his/her part.

7. A Board member shall not use any information obtained as a consequence of his or her service as a member of the Ledyard Board of Education for financial or other gain when such information is not available to the general public.

8. No Board member shall solicit information from the public regarding the performance, behavior, or competence of a Board employee. This provision does not, however, prevent a Board member from listening to the public's concerns regarding a particular Board employee.

The above-noted conflict of interest rules are not intended to be a complete list of prohibited conduct or activity by Board members. Board members should be continually aware of any situation that might create actual or apparent conflicts of interest.

Related Policies:

4112.8 / 4212.8 – Employment of Relatives

4118.13 / 4218.13 – Employee Conflict of Interest

Legal References:

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 board of education.

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut