

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS REGULATION

CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1 Pursuant to the provisions of §806 of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. It is the purpose of this local policy to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the school district. These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of officers and employees of the district. The rules of ethical conduct of this local policy as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to any prohibition of article eighteen of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts of municipal officers and employees.

Section 2 Definition

- a. "Municipal Officer or Employee" means an officer or employee of the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District, whether paid or unpaid, including members of the Board of Education, or their professional or nonprofessional staff and appointees.
- b. "Interest" means a pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer or employee unless the context otherwise requires.

Section 3 Standards of Conduct

Every officer or employee of the district shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

- a. Gifts He/She shall not directly or indirectly, solicit any gift; or accept or receive any gift having a value of seventy-five dollars 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 reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him/her, in the performance of his official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his/her part.
- b. Confidential information He/She shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him/her in the course of his/her official duties or use such information to further his/her personal interest.
- b. Representation before one's own agency He/She shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any municipal agency of which he/she is an officer, member or employee, or of any municipal agency over which he/she has jurisdiction or to which he/she has the power to appoint any member, officer or employee.
- c. Representation before any agency for a contingent fee He/She shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any agency of his/her municipality, whereby the compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.

- e. Disclosure of interest To the extent that he/she knows thereof, a member of the Board of Education and any officer or employee of the district, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in the discussion or gives official opinion to the Board on any matter before the Board shall publicly disclose on the official record the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest he/she has in such matter.

Section 4 Future Employment

An officer or employee shall not, after the termination of service or employment with the Board, appear before the Board, or any panel or committee of the Board, in relation to any case, proceeding, or application in which he or she personally participated during the period of his or her service or employment or that was under his or her active consideration.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former Board member or employee of any claim, account, demand or suit against the district, or any agency thereof on behalf of himself/herself or any member of his/her family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

Section 5 Distribution of Code of Ethics

The Superintendent of Schools shall cause a copy of this code of ethics to be distributed to every officer and employee of the school district within thirty days after the effective date of this code of ethics. Each officer and employee elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.

Section 6 Penalties In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this code may be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment, as the case may be, in the manner provided by law.

Adoption date: May 1, 1992