

BOARD MEMBER CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Board members of the Deerfield Community School District may not engage in any business or transaction, or take any action, in which they or their immediate family has a direct financial interest. Neither may they engage in any activity which is incompatible with the proper discharge of their official duties or likely to impair their judgment in performing official duties.

Specifically:

1. Board members may not accept private employment or render service for private interest, unless the employment or service is permitted by law and unless disclosure is made to the full board, as outlined elsewhere in this policy.
2. Board members may not disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the school district, nor use such information to advance their own financial or other private interest, unless proper legal authorization is given to do so.
3. Board members may not accept any gift worth more than a nominal amount, whether in the form of a service, loan, thing of value, or promise, from any person, firm or corporation which, to the board member's knowledge, is interested directly or indirectly in the business dealings of the school district. Gifts, favors, or things of value that may influence board members in the discharge of their duties also may not be accepted, except for campaign contributions as authorized by state law.

Gifts received under unusual circumstances should be referred to the full board within ten days for recommended disposition. The board presumes, however, that any gift of nominal value will not influence board members in the discharge of their official duties.

4. Board members may not participate in awarding contracts to private enterprises in which board members may have a private pecuniary interest, or in regard to which they must perform some function requiring the exercise of discretion—unless the contract is awarded through a process of public notice and competitive bidding as outlined by state law.

Disclosure of Interest in Matters Before the Board

The Board will hold an annual orientation/organizational meeting after the April election to discuss and to disclose any actual or potential conflicts/incompatibilities.

To the extent known, any member of the board who has a financial interest in any proposed board action will disclose on the records of the board the nature and extent of such interest.

Members of the board are expected to indicate their individual non-participation at the beginning of the board's consideration of any matter in which they or a member of their immediate family have a direct interest.

Non-participation means that the board member will not discuss the matter under consideration nor will he or she vote on the matter.

The clerk of the board will record in the minutes of the meeting that the individual member withdrew from the discussion and decision on the matter to avoid a conflict of interest.