

School Board Member Conduct

Public office is a trust created by the confidence which the public places in integrity of its public officers. To preserve this confidence, it is the desire of the Board to operate under the highest ethical standards.

In carrying out their fiduciary duties, a Board member shall not:

1. Disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of the member's official duties to further substantially any personal financial interests.
2. Accept a gift of substantial value or substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value, which would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in such a position or which is known or should be known to be primarily for the purpose of rewarding an official action taken.
3. Engage in a substantial financial transaction for the member's private business purposes with a person whom is supervised in the course of the member's official duties.
4. Perform an official act which directly and substantially confers an economic benefit on a business or other undertaking in which the member has a substantial financial interest or in which the member is engaged as a counsel, consultant, representative or agent.

The phrase "economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value" includes a loan at a rate of interest substantially lower than the prevailing commercial rate and compensation received for private services rendered at a rate substantially exceeding the fair market value.

It is permissible for a Board member to receive:

1. Campaign contributions and contributions in kind which are reported in accordance with state law.
2. An occasional nonpecuniary (non-financial) gift which is insignificant in value.
3. A nonpecuniary (non-financial) award publicly presented by a nonprofit organization in recognition of public service.
4. Payment or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenditures for travel and subsistence for attendance at a convention or other meeting at which the member is scheduled to participate.
5. Reimbursement for or acceptance of an opportunity to participate in a social function or meeting which is not extraordinary when viewed in light of the member's position.

6. Items of perishable or nonpermanent value including but not limited to meals, lodging, travel expenses or tickets to sporting, recreational, educational or cultural events. Tickets to these events may have to be reported in accordance with the public official disclosure law.
7. Payment for speeches, appearance or publications reported in accordance with the public official disclosure law.

It shall not be considered a breach of conduct for a Board member to:

1. Use school facilities and equipment to communicate or correspond with constituents.
2. Accept or receive a benefit as an indirect consequence of transacting school district business.

Adopted January 11, 1995
Revised January 14, 2004
Revised February 10, 2010

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 1-45-101 et seq., Fair Campaign Practices Act
C.R.S. 24-6-203 Colorado Sunshine Law – Public Official Disclosure Act -- Reporting by incumbents and elected candidates – gift's honoraria, and other benefits - penalty
C.R.S. 24-18-104 Rules of conduct for all public officers, members of the general assembly, local government officials, and employees
C.R.S. 24-18-109 Rules of conduct for local government officials and employees
C.R.S. 22-32-110(1)(k), (specific powers of boards)

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado