

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A Gorham School Committee member shall not have any direct or indirect pecuniary interest (as defined by law) in a contract with the Gorham School Department, nor shall he/she furnish directly any labor, equipment, or supplies to the School Department.

In the event that a School Committee member is employed by a corporation or business, or has a secondary interest in a corporation or business which furnishes goods or services to the schools, the School Committee member shall declare his/her secondary employment status or interest and refrain from debating or voting upon the question of contracting with the company.

It is not the intent of this policy to prevent the Gorham School Department from contracting with corporations or businesses because a School Committee member is an employee of the firm. The policy is designed to prevent the placing of school committee members in a position where their interest in public schools and their interest in their places of employment (or other indirect interest) might conflict. Even when no conflict exists, School Committee members are encouraged to disclose situations where others might feel there is a conflict.

A School Committee member may not, during the time the member serves on the Gorham School Committee and for one year after the member ceases to serve on the School Committee, be appointed to any civil office of profit or employment position which has been created or the compensation of which has been increased by the action of the School Committee during the time the member serves on the School Committee.

A member of the School Committee or spouse of a member may not be an employee in a public school within the jurisdiction of the School Committee to which the member is elected.

A member of the School Committee or spouse of a member may not serve as a volunteer when that volunteer has a primary responsibility for a curricular, co curricular or extracurricular program or activity and reports directly to the Superintendent, principal, athletic/activities director or other school administrator in a public school within the jurisdiction of the School Committee to which the member is elected.

For the purposes of this policy, the following statutory definitions apply:

- A. “Employee” means a person who receives monetary payment or benefits, no matter the amount paid or hours worked, for personal services performed for a school administrative unit.
- B. “Volunteer” means a person who performs personal services for a school administrative unit without monetary payments or benefits of any kind or amount.

Legal Reference: Title 17 Section 3104
Title 20-A MRSA Section 1002, Section 1051
Title 30-MRSA Section 2251, Section 2604

Cross Reference: BBBA – Board Member Qualifications

Adopted: August 27, 1973

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