

NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Series 9000: Board Bylaws

BP 9270

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Incompatible Activities

Board of Trustees members shall not engage in any employment or activity which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with or inimical to the Board of Trustees member's duties as an officer of the district. (Government Code 1126)

Conflict of Interest Code

The district's conflict of interest code shall comprise of the terms of California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 18730 and any amendments to it adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, together with a district attachment specifying designated positions and the specific types of disclosure statements required for each position.

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review the district's conflict of interest code in even-numbered years. If no change in the code is required, the district shall submit by October 1 a written statement to that effect to the code reviewing body. If a change in the code is necessitated by changed circumstances, the district shall submit an amended code to the code reviewing body. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in the district's conflict of interest code is necessitated by changed circumstances such as the creation of new designated positions, amendments or revisions shall be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing conflict of interest codes, the district shall provide officers, employees, consultants and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

If a Board member or designated employee determines that he/she has a financial interest in a decision, as described in Government Code 87103, this determination shall be disclosed. The member shall be disqualified from voting unless his/her participation is legally required. (2 CCR 18700)

Statements of economic interests submitted to the district by designated employees in accordance with the conflict of interest code shall be available for public inspection and reproduction. (Government Code 81008)

Financial Interest

Board members and designated employees shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board or in any contract they make in their capacity as Board members or designated employees. (Government Code 1090)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract if his/her interest includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: (Government Code 1091.5)

1. That of an officer who is being reimbursed for his/her actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of an official duty.
2. That of a recipient of public services generally provided by the public body or board of which he/she is a member, on the same terms and conditions as if he or she were not a member of the board.
3. That of a landlord or tenant of the contracting party if such contracting party is the federal government or any federal department or agency, this state or an adjoining state, or any public corporation or special, judicial or other public district of this state or an adjoining state unless the subject matter of such contract is the property in which such officer or employee has such interest as landlord or tenant in which even his/her interest shall be deemed a remote interest within the meaning of, and subject to, the provisions of Government Code 1091.
4. That of a spouse of an officer or employee of the district if his/her spouse's employment or office holding has existed for at least one year prior to his/her election or appointment.
5. That of a non-salaried member of a nonprofit corporation, provided that such interest is disclosed to the Board at the time of the first consideration of the contract, and provided further that such interest is noted in its official records.
6. That of a non-compensated officer of a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation which, as one of its primary purposes, supports the functions of the nonprofit board or to which the school Board has legal obligation to give particular consideration, and provided further that such interest is noted in its official records.
7. That of a person receiving salary, per diem, or reimbursement for expenses from the governmental entity, unless the contract directly involves the department of the government entity that employs the officer or employee, provided that such interest is disclosed to the Board at the time of consideration of the contract, and provided further that such interest is noted in its official records.
8. That of an attorney of the contracting party or that of an owner, officer, employee or agent of a firm which renders, or has rendered, service to the contracting party in the capacity of stockbroker, insurance agent, insurance broker, real estate agent, or real estate broker, if these individuals have not received and will not receive remuneration, consideration, or a commission as a result of the contract and if these individuals have an ownership interest of less than 10 percent in the law practice or firm stock brokerage firm, insurance firm or real estate firm.

In addition, a Board member or employee shall not be deemed to be interested in a contract made pursuant to competitive bidding under a procedure established by law if his/her sole interest is that of an officer, director, or employee of a bank or savings and loan association with which a part of the contract has the relationship of borrower or depositor, debtor or creditor. (Government Code 0091.5)

A Board member shall not be deemed to be financially interested in a contract if he/she has only a remote interest in the contract and if the remote interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member to enter into the contract. Remote interests are specified in Government Code 1091(b); they include, but are not limited to, the interest of a parent in the earnings of his/her minor child. (Government Code 1091)

A Board member may enter into a contract if the rule of necessity or legally required participation applies as defined in Government Code 87101.

Even if there is no prohibited or remote interest, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect a relative of the Board member. A Board member may vote, however, on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which the relative belongs. "Relative" means an adult who is related to the person by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes the individual's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

Gifts

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitations on gifts do not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the prevailing gift limitation except as described in Government Code 89506.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the district for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

Honoraria

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private gathering, in accordance with the law. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term honorarium does not include: (Government Code 89501)

Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade or profession unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade or profession is making speeches

Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the district for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes.

It has been determined that persons occupying the following positions manage public investments and shall file a full statement of economic interests pursuant to Government Code 87200:

Board Members
Superintendent

1. Persons occupying the following positions are designated employees in Category 2:
Principal

Designated persons in this category must report investments or business positions in or income from sources which:

- a. Are contractors or subcontractors engaged in work or services of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs, or
 - b. Manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery or equipment of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs. For the purposes of this category, a principal's department is her/her entire school.
2. Consultants are designated employees who must disclose financial interests as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee's written determination shall include a description of the consultant's duties and a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements based upon that description. All such determinations are public records and shall be retained for public inspection along with this conflict of interest code.

A consult is an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, makes a governmental decision whether too: (2 CCR 18701)

- a. Approve a rate, rule or regulation
- b. Adopt or enforce a law
- c. Issue, deny, suspend or revoke a permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order or similar authorization or entitlement
- d. Authorize the district to enter into, modify or renew a contract that requires district approval
- e. Grant district approval to a contract or contract specifications which require district approval and in which the district is a party
- f. Grant district approval to plan, design, report, study or similar item
- g. Adopt or grant district approval of district policies, standards or guidelines

A consultant is also an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, serves in a staff capacity with the district and in that capacity participates in making a governmental decision as defined in 2 CCR 18702.2 or performs the same or substantially all the same duties for the district that would otherwise be performed by an individual holding a position specified in the district's Conflict of Interest Code. (2 CCR 18701)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1006 Qualifications for holding office

35107 School district employees

35230-35240 Corrupt practices

35233 Prohibitions applicable to members of governing boards

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090-1098 Prohibitions applicable to specified officers

1125-1129 Incompatible activities

81000-91015 Political Reform Act of 1974, especially:

82011 Code reviewing body

82019 Definition of designated employee

82028 Definition of gifts

82030 Definition of income

87100-87103.6 General prohibitions

87200-87210 Disclosure

87300-87313 Conflict of Interest Code

87500 Statements of economic interest

89501-89503 Honoraria and gifts

91000-91014 Enforcement

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18110-18997 Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission

COURT DECISIONS

Thorpe v. Long Beach Community College district, (2000) 83 Cal. App. 4th 655

Kunec v. Brea Redevelopment Agency, (1997) 55 Cal. App. 4th 511

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

82 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen 83 (1999)

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen 327 (1998)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen 320 (1997)

69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen 255 (1986)

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 171 (1985)

65 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen 606 (1982)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>