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SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The United States Constitution leaves to the individual states responsibility for public education.

In South Dakota, the legislature is charged by the Constitution "to establish and maintain a general and uniform system of public schools" which is open to all children and free from sectarian control.

The State Board of Education is responsible for the adoption of all policies for the government of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, and for the adoption and implementation of regulations for supervising the elementary and secondary schools.

School Districts exist for the purpose of operating a school or schools to provide the people of each local community adequate opportunity to avail themselves of a free public elementary and secondary education program.

This School District constitutes a school corporation under the name of Elk Point-Jefferson School District, No. 61-7 of Union County, South Dakota.

Re-Adopted: February 12, 2018

RELATIONS WITH PARENTS

The Board believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parents of the school community. To insure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

The Board feels that it is the parents who have the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior, including the behavior of pupils who have reached the legal age of majority, but are still for all practical purposes, under parental authority. During school hours, the Board through its designated administrators acts in loco parentis or in place of the parents.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

The Board directs that the following activities be implemented to encourage parent-school cooperation:

1. Parent-teacher conferences to permit two-way communication between home and school.
2. Open houses in district schools to provide parents with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and sample the program on a first-hand basis.
3. Each school in the district shall hold an open house once a year.
4. Meetings of parents and staff members to explain and discuss matters of general interest with regard to child-school, child-home, or child-home-school relationships;
5. Meetings of staff members and groups of parents of those students having special abilities, disabilities, needs, or problems.
6. Special events of a cultural, ethnic, or topical nature, which are initiated by parent groups, involve the cooperative effort of students and parents, and are of general interest to the schools or community.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY

For the benefit of children, the Board believes that parents have a responsibility to encourage their career in school by:

1. Supporting the school in requiring that children observe all school rules and regulations, and by accepting their own responsibility for children's willful in-school behavior;
2. Sending children to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness and dress;

3. Maintaining an active interest in the student's daily work and making it possible for the student to complete assigned homework through providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
4. Reading all communications from the school, and signing and returning them promptly when required;
5. Cooperating with the school in attending conferences set up for the exchange of information on the child's progress in school;
6. Participating in in-school activities and special functions.

COMMUNITY AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The Board recognizes the importance of community and parent involvement with the program and the operations of the public schools. By working together the quality of the educational program for students can only improve.

To foster mutual respect and confidence between the public, parents and the Board, an atmosphere of openness and honesty will prevail. The Board will encourage interested groups and representatives to express ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools to the school administration, to staff appointed advisory bodies and to the Board. It will be the Board's responsibility to provide the public and parents with accurate and complete information on the schools and the Board's activities.

The advice of the public and parents will be given careful consideration. In the evaluation of such contributions, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects the students.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

The Board recognizes that one of the best methods to maintain good communications with the community, and to establish sound public relations, is through temporary citizens' advisory committees.

These committees will be appointed when needed for a specific time and purpose, and will be under the supervisory control of the Superintendent. The Superintendent will report to the Board on its membership, function, progress and final report.

Re-Adopted:

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goals of the school district to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with the parents, shall establish and develop programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and families.

To this end, the Board will support the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent involvement program will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Support to parents as leaders and decision-makers in advisory roles.
2. Promotion of clear two-way communication between the school and the family as to school programs and children's progress.
3. Assistance to parents and/or guardians to develop parenting skills to foster positive relationships at home that support children's efforts and provide techniques designed to assist their children with learning at home.
4. Involvement of parents, with appropriate training, in instructional and support roles at the school.
5. Provision of access to and coordination of community and support services for children and families.

These forms of involvement are not mutually exclusive and require a coordinated school wide effort.

Re-Adopted:

NONDISCRIMINATION

The Board is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, sex, religion, national background, handicap and other human differences. Respect for the dignity and worth of each individual will be paramount in the establishment of all policies by the Board and in the administration of those policies. The Constitutions of our nation and state, pertinent legislation enacted at those two levels of government, as well as court interpretations regarding citizens' rights, undergird this statement.

In keeping with these statements, the following will be objectives of this school district:

1. To promote the rights and responsibilities of all individuals as set forth in the state and federal constitutions, pertinent legislation and applicable judicial interpretations.
2. To encourage positive experiences in human values for children and adults who have differing personal and family characteristics or who come from various socioeconomic, racial and ethnic groups.
3. To carefully consider, in all decisions made which affect the schools, the potential benefits or adverse consequences that those decisions might have on the human relations aspects of all segments of society.
4. To initiate a process of reviewing all policies and practices of this school district in order to achieve to the greatest extent possible the objectives of this policy.
5. To work toward a more integrated society and to enlist the support of individuals as well as that of groups and agencies, both private and Governmental, in such an effort.

The Board's policy on nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business.

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP/DISABILITY

It will be the policy of the District to adhere to the concept of nondiscrimination on the basis of handicapping conditions. The Board will support section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In doing so the Board will:

1. Not discriminate against a qualified handicapped person in any aspect of school division employment solely on the basis of handicap.
2. Make facilities, programs and activities accessible, usable, and open to qualified handicapped persons.
3. Provide free appropriate education at elementary and secondary levels, including nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, to qualified handicapped persons.
4. Not exclude any qualified handicapped person solely on the basis of handicap from participation in any preschool education or day care program or activity or any adult education or vocational program or activity.
5. Provide each qualified handicapped person with the same health, welfare, and social services as are provided other persons.

The Board holds the general view that:

1. Discrimination against qualified handicapped persons solely on the basis of handicap is unfair.
2. To the extent reasonably possible, qualified handicapped persons should be in the mainstream of life in a school community.

Accordingly, employees of the District will comply with the above requirements of the law and any regulations approved by the Board or its administration for ensuring a policy of nondiscrimination on the sole basis of handicap. The Board designates the superintendent or superintendent's designee to act as the District's compliance officer for employees and students.

No person in the District will, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activities.

Re-Adopted: February 12, 2018

NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The District will not violate any of the provisions of applicable federal programs, statutes or regulations, including but not limited to Title IX, ESEA/Title I, Rehabilitation Act Section 504, Title II (Americans with Disabilities Act), NCLB and McKinney-Vento Act (homeless children). The District will not discriminate in any of its policies and programs on the basis of age, race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex or disability.

The District will provide the following:

1. an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints, including the opportunity for the complainant and alleged perpetrator to present witnesses and provide evidence; evaluation of all relevant information and documentation relating to a complaint of discrimination;
2. specific, reasonably prompt time frames at each stage of the grievance process;
3. written notice to all parties within a specified timeframe of the outcome or disposition of the grievance at each stage of the process;
4. an opportunity to appeal the findings or remedy, or both;
5. an assurance that the District will take steps to prevent recurrence of any discrimination and correct discriminatory effects on others; and
6. language in the policies and grievance procedures indicating that any attempts to informally or voluntarily resolve the complaint or grievance should not delay the commencement of the District's investigation.

In compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations, the Board has appointed the Superintendent as the District's Compliance Officer to coordinate program compliance with federal programs. The Superintendent can be reached at:

Elk Point-Jefferson School District
402 S Douglas St
Phone #: (605) 356-5950.

A complaint may also be filed with the United States Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education at: 1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106: Telephone: (816) 268-0550; Facsimile: (816)268-0599; Telecommunication Device for the Deaf: (877) 521.2172; E-mail: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

In today's society, education is a continuous process of learning, not only for the present but for the future. Therefore, the Board will provide an educational environment that promotes and enhances learning as a life-long endeavor. In addition, the Board believes that education is not just the development and refinement of mental capacity but a process that assists the students in meeting their physical, social, aesthetic, and emotional requirements.

The Board will strive to provide stimulation and assistance so that each child develops in accordance to his or her individual abilities, interests and potential. The responsibility of the school, therefore, is to help guide the individual in the many and varied educational experiences so that a child can develop into a wholesome, happy and productive human being.

The Board recognizes the importance of the home as an influence upon the child and believes that a sympathetic, cooperative attitude between the teacher and the parent or guardian is necessary in the development of a student's integrated personality.

The total staff of the school system constitutes an inestimable and lasting force in the development of the student. The teacher is the most significant influence in the school and must, therefore, possess and demonstrate dedication, enthusiasm and sensitivity. It is primarily the teacher's responsibility to provide the learning environment in the school that fosters maximum student growth and reflects individual differences.

It is further realized that mutual rapport among the home, student, staff, administration, School Board and total community is necessary to implement this policy.

Re-Adopted: February 12, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Elk Point-Jefferson School is to provide a safe environment where students will be empowered with knowledge and skills to successfully navigate life's transitions and challenges.

Re-Adopted: February 12, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of the Elk Point-Jefferson School District is to equip our students to become effective communicators and responsible citizens in an increasingly demanding society.

Re-Adopted: February 12, 2018

COMPLAINT POLICY FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to resolve the issue with the employee or principal may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent.

Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation (including inter-district disputes), and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth may initiate the dispute resolution process directly at the school they choose, as well as at the district or district's homeless liaison's office. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. Students should be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes are resolved.

- The Superintendent will investigate, within one week, the circumstances of the complaint and render a decision, within two weeks, after receipt of the complaint.
- The Superintendent will notify the complainant of the decision in writing.
- The complainant will be allowed one week to react to the decision before it becomes final.
- The complainant will either accept or disagree with the decision and will provide such acknowledgment in writing, addressed to the district Superintendent.
- If the issue is not resolved with the Superintendent, the complaint will be forwarded to the district's Board of Education for further review. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the district's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision.
- Unresolved complaints may be appealed by the stakeholder by filing an appeal to the circuit court pursuant to SDCL Ch. 13-46.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND AUTHORIZATION

SDCL 3-23-6

"No board member, business manager, chief financial officer, superintendent, chief executive officer, or other person with the authority to enter into a contract or spend money in an amount greater than five thousand dollars of a local service agency, school district, cooperative education 17 service unit, education service agency, nonprofit education service agency, or jointly governed education service entity that receives money from or through the state may have an interest in a contract nor receive a direct benefit from a contract in amount greater than five thousand dollars or multiple contracts in an amount greater than five thousand dollars with the same party within a twelve-month period to which the local service agency, school district, cooperative education service unit, or education service agency is a party except as provided in § 3-23-8."

I. DEFINITIONS:

"School Official" refers to a school board member, business manager, chief financial officer, superintendent, chief executive officer, or other person with the authority to enter into a contract or spend money in an amount greater than five thousand dollars.

"Interest in a contract" is when (1) a School Official, the spouse of a School Official or any other person with whom the School Official lives and commingles assets, is employed by a party to any contract with the school district; or (2) the School Official, the spouse of a School Official, or any other person with whom the School Official lives and commingles assets, receives more than nominal compensation or reimbursement for actual expenses for serving on the board of directors of an entity that derives income or commission directly from the contract or acquires property under the contract.

"Direct benefit from a contract" is when a School Official, the spouse of a School Official or any other person with whom the School Official lives and commingles assets (1) is a party to or intended beneficiary of the contract between the school district and a third party, or (2) has more than a five percent ownership interest in an entity that is a party to the school district contract, or (3) acquires property under the contract with the school district, or (4) receives compensation, commission, promotion, or other monetary benefit directly attributable to any contract.

II. PROHIBITION: This policy prohibits School Officials board members, business manager, superintendent, and any other person who has the authority to enter into a contract or spend money on behalf of the school district from having an interest in a contract or receiving a direct benefit from one or more contracts between the school district and a third party, if the total contract amount is more than \$5,000 within a 12 month period, unless the School Official discloses to the school board his or her interest in the contract, or in the case of a direct benefit from the contract, discloses the direct benefit and receives school board authorization to receive the benefit.

III. EXCEPTIONS: If any of the following apply, the School Official does not have an interest in the contract and does not derive a direct benefit from a contract, and disclosure (and authorization, if a direct benefit) is not required:

- when the person's relationship to the contract is based solely on the value associated with the person's publicly-traded investments or holdings, or the investments or holdings of any other person with whom the board member, business manager, chief financial officer, superintendent, or chief executive officer lives or commingles assets;
- when the person's relationship to the contract is due to participating in a vote or a decision in which the person's only interest arises from an act of general application;
- when the person's relationship to the contract is due to the person receiving income as an employee or independent contractor of a party with whom the local service agency, school district, cooperative education service unit, or education service agency has a contract, unless the person receives compensation or a promotion directly attributable to the contract, or unless the person is employed by the party as a board member, executive officer, or other person working for the party in an area related to the contract;
- when the contract is for the sale of goods or services, or for maintenance or repair services, in the regular course of business at a price at or below a price offered to all customers;
- when the contract is subject to a public bidding process;
- when the contract is with the official depository as set forth in SDCL 6-1-3;
- when the person only receives income or compensation, a per diem authorized by law or reimbursement for actual expenses incurred; or
- when the contract or multiple contracts with the same party within a twelve-month period with whom the school district contracts in an amount less than five thousand dollars.

IV. DISCLOSURE:

A School Official who has an interest in a contract or who receives a direct benefit from a contract must disclose to the school board the existence of a contract in which the person has an interest or receives a direct benefit.

- the disclosure must include the following: (i) all parties to the contract, (ii) the person's role in the contract, (iii) the purpose or objective of the contract, (iv) the consideration or benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party, and (v) the duration of the contract;

- the disclosure must be in writing;
- to the extent circumstances allow, disclosure must be given prior to entering into any contract that requires disclosure, and if circumstances do not permit disclosure prior to entering into the contract then within forty-five days after entering into the contract, and if the contract extends into consecutive fiscal years, disclosure shall also be made at the annual reorganization meeting.
- The school board will have a regular agenda item at the beginning of the school board meeting agenda at which time the school board will address conflict of interest disclosures.
- Conflict of interest disclosures must be submitted to the President of the School Board, the Superintendent or the Business Manager, at least 5 calendar days before the scheduled meeting in order to be included in the posted meeting agenda for the next school board meeting. Conflict of interest disclosures submitted to the President of the School Board, the Superintendent or the Business Manager after the proposed agenda has been posted may be deferred until the following school board meeting.

V. BOARD ACTION UPON DISCLOSURE:

1. Interest in the contract:

- a. the school board is not required to authorize a School Official's interest in a contract;
- b. the interest disclosure must be included in the official minutes of the school board (the official minutes are not required to be sent to the auditor-general and attorney general).

2. Direct benefit from a contract:

- a. the school board shall review the disclosure and decide if the terms of the contract are fair and reasonable, and if the contract is contrary to the public interest.
 - If the school board determines the contract terms from which a direct benefit is derived are fair and reasonable, and that the contract is not contrary to the public interest, the school board shall vote to authorize the School Official to derive a direct benefit from the contract.
 - After the school board authorizes a School Official to derive a direct benefit from a contract, no further disclosure or authorization related to the contract is required unless the contract extends into consecutive fiscal years. If the contract extends into consecutive fiscal years, disclosure must be made at the annual reorganization meeting but no new authorization is required.

b. If the school board determines the contract terms from which a direct benefit is derived are not fair and reasonable, or is contrary to the public interest, the school board shall vote to not authorize the School Official to derive a direct benefit from the contract. If the school board votes to not authorize a direct benefit, the contract is voidable and subject to disgorgement (i.e., the act of giving up on demand or by legal compulsion something that was obtained by illegal or unethical acts) or the person may resign from the school district.

c. The disclosure and school board action is public record.

d. The official minutes of the school board shall include the school board action on each disclosure and request for authorization to derive a direct benefit from a contract. A copy of the official school board minutes shall be sent to the auditor-general and attorney general within thirty (30) days of board approval of the minutes.

e. No school board member may participate in or vote upon a relating to a matter in which the school board member derives a direct benefit.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Consequences for knowingly violating the conflict of interest laws set forth in SDCL Ch. 3-23:
 - It is a criminal violation for a School Official to knowingly violate the conflict of interest law.
 - A School Official who knowingly violated the conflict of interest law will be removed from office or employment and is disqualified from holding any public office, elective or appointive.
 - Any benefit which a School Official derived from the person's knowing violation of the conflict of interest law is subject to forfeiture.
 - • Any contract made in violation of this policy may be voided by the school board.

2. The School District Attorney represents the school district and the school board and may answer questions about the law that address conflict of interest. As the school district attorney does not represent School Officials in their individual capacity, School Officials should consult with their own private attorney related to questions they may have regarding how this policy applies to their individual interests and contracts.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 3-28-6

Adoption Date: April 16, 2018

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Name of the School Official submitting the conflict of interest disclosure:

_____ (Name) _____ (Date)

The disclosure is for the purpose of notifying the School Board of

_____ an interest in a contract

_____ a direct benefit from a contract:

Identify the following:

- 1) All parties to the contract

- (2) The person's role in the contract

- (3) The purpose(s)/objective(s) of the contract

- (4) The benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party

- (5) The length of time of the contract

- (6) Any other relevant information

- (7) If the disclosure relates to the School Official deriving a direct benefit from a contract, explain how the terms of the contract are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest such that authorization should be granted by the school board.

Signature of School Official

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
SCHOOL BOARD ACTION
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
SCHOOL BOARD ACTION

A conflict of interest disclosure of a direct benefit, dated _____,
was received from _____.

The disclosure was considered by the Elk Point-Jefferson School District School Board during
a meeting held on _____.

BOARD ACTION

_____The request for authorization was denied because the terms of the contract were
determined to not be fair and reasonable, and/or were contrary to the public interest.

_____The direct benefit from the contract was authorized because the terms of the contract
are fair and reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest.

_____The direct benefit was authorized because the terms of the contract are fair and
reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest such that a waiver should be granted,
subject to the following conditions:

Printed Name of School Board President: _____

School Board President

Date Signature of

CONTESTED HEARINGS

The Board may be required to assume a judicial role to ensure adherence to district policy. All contested matters will be heard in a fair and impartial manner, and the Board will resolve all disputes. All contested hearings shall adhere to the procedures outlined in this policy.

HEARING

- Hearings involving personnel and students are closed to the public.
- Requests for hearings to be conducted in open session will be considered by the Board.
- A verbatim record of the hearing will be made.
- Closed hearing records will be sealed pending a determination of the board.

CONDUCT OF THE HEARING

- The Board shall appoint a school board member or a person who is not an employee of the school district as the hearing officer.
- Each party may be represented by an attorney.
- Each party may make an opening statement.
- The complainant or petitioner shall present its case first.

WITNESSES

- All witnesses must take an oath or affirmation of truth.
- Witnesses may be present only when testifying.
- Each party may present, examine and cross-examine witnesses.
- The hearing officer may ask questions of witnesses and may allow other school board members to question witnesses.

EVIDENCE

- Each party may introduce evidence.
- All relevant evidence must be admitted.
- Unproductive or repetitious evidence may be limited by the hearing officer.
- Each party may raise objections. The basis for the objection must be stated.
- Each party may make a closing statement.

DELIBERATION

- After the hearing, the school board shall continue to meet in executive session for deliberation.
- No one other than the hearing officer may meet with the school board during deliberation.
- The school board may seek advice during deliberation from its legal counsel.
- Consultation with any other person during deliberation may occur only if representatives of the parties are present.

DECISION

- The decision of the Board must be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and must be effected by a motion made in open session.
- For closed hearings the motion must omit the names of the parties.
- The Board shall notify the parties in writing of its decision.