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HAY SPRINGS BOARD POLICY MANUAL

Section 200 School Board

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POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

The School Board shall provide for a school system and establish general policies in keeping with the wishes of the community and the requirements of State Law. The School Board shall establish policies and regulations, which, in its judgment, seem necessary and desirable in the fulfillment of its duties.

The School Board shall hold regular meetings on or before the second Monday of every month. Special meetings may be called by the president or any two members, but all members shall have notice of the time and place of such meetings.

The School Board functions only when in official session. The School Board functions as a committee of the whole. Complaints and suggestions, other than those concerning the superintendent, must be brought to the superintendent before they will be considered at a School Board Meeting.

It is understood that members of the board have authority only when acting as a board legally in session. The board shall not be bound in any way by any action or statement on the part of any individual board member, except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific, formal instructions from the board.

The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of the School Board and shall see that a list of the bills allowed each month for payment as well as the minutes are published in an official newspaper as provided by law.

Money will be drawn from the County Treasurer as it is received in the Treasurer's Office.

The responsibilities of the School Board shall be:

1. To select a superintendent and support him/her in the discharge of his/her duties.
2. To select personnel upon nomination and recommendation of the superintendent.
3. To provide for the continual evaluation of personnel and to dismiss those deemed unsatisfactory.
4. To consider and adopt policies necessary to the school program. Such policies may be initiated by the superintendent, by members of the School Board or by the general public. Any policy change proposed by the School Board or by the general public shall be submitted to the superintendent for his/her consideration and recommendation before action is taken.
5. To evaluate reports required for the superintendent concerning the progress and the financial status of the school.
6. To consider and adopt an annual budget.
7. To assist in presenting to the public the needs and progress of the school District.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

8. To provide by the exercise of its legal powers, the funds and facilities necessary for the operation of the school.

9. To provide for audit of all funds periodically.
10. To perform the specific duties imposed upon the School Board by law.
11. To provide insurance for school property and keep policies in a safe deposit box in the local bank or some other reasonable and safe place.
12. The School Board may by rule specify a particular action as a sanction for particular conduct. Expulsion may be specified as a sanction for particular conduct only if the School Board finds that the type of conduct of the student, other students, staff members or any other person, that seriously interferes with the educational process.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-261 to 263
 79-501 to 524
 79-734
 NDE Rule 10.004.01

Cross Reference 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 104 Educational and Operational Planning
 205 School Board Policy Process
 301.03 Succession of Authority to the Superintendent
 601 Goals and Objectives of Instructional Plan

BOARD MEMBERSHIP - ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The biennial school election takes place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Terms shall be staggered so that at least three board members are elected at each general election. Members of the board will be elected (*at large; by ward or district*).

Incumbents must file for election at the Office of the County Clerk, Sheridan County, by February 15 prior to the date of the primary election. All other candidates must file for election by March 1 prior to the date of the primary election.

If a vacancy occurs on the board it may be filled by appointment of a qualified registered voter by the remaining members of the board for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the board does not fill the vacancy by appointment, the vacancy may be filled by election at a special election or school district meeting called for that purpose. If a majority of the offices of the school board members are vacant, the Secretary of State will call a special school district election to fill the vacancies.

It is prohibited to meet in closed session for discussion of the appointment or election of a new board member.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-501 et seq.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

QUALIFICATIONS

Serving on the school board is an honor and privilege. Its rewards are respect from the community, students, and employees and the satisfaction from knowing each board member contributed to the success of the children in the school district community. Only those who are willing to put forth the effort to care and to make a difference should consider running for a position on the board.

Individuals who are willing to serve on the board should believe public education is important, support the democratic process, willingly devote time and energy to board work, respect educators and have the ability to examine the facts and make a decision. The board believes an individual considering a position on the school board should possess these characteristics.

Persons wanting to run for a position on the board must be a resident of the school district, an eligible elector of the district and free from a financial conflict of interest with the position. No member of a school board may be employed as a teacher by the school district on which board he or she serves.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-543, 544

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.06 Vacancies
 202.01 Board Member Conflict of Interest

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

OATH OF OFFICE

Board members are officials of the state. As a public official, each board member must pledge to uphold the Nebraska and the United States Constitution and carry out the responsibilities of the office to the best of the board member's ability.

Each newly elected school board member shall be given the following oath of office at the first meeting attended as an elected member prior to taking any action as a school official. The superintendent shall administer this oath of office.

"I, ...(name)..., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservation or for purpose of evasion; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of the Hay Springs School District Board of Education according to law, and to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence; and that during such time as I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence. So help me God."

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 11-101

Cross Reference: 101 Legal Status of the School District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

TERM OF OFFICE

Board members nominated by primary election and elected by general election will serve for four years. Board members appointed to fill a vacant position will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Being a board member is a unique opportunity for a citizen to participate on a governing board of the school district. Eligible board members are encouraged to consider running for more than one term.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-543, 570

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

VACANCIES

A vacancy occurs when a board member resigns, forfeits or otherwise leaves the office. A vacancy also includes, but is not limited to, the following: failure to elect at an election when there is no incumbent to continue in office until his or her successor is elected and qualified, failure to reside in the school district or a continuous absence from the district of more than 60 days, absence from more than 2 consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members of the board, death of the incumbent, a court order declaring the seat vacant, conviction of a felony, or any public offense in violation of the oath of office.

The resignation of a member or any other reason for a vacancy shall be made a part of the minutes of the school board. The board shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term in writing to the election commissioner or county clerk, and by a notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district.

It is prohibited to meet in closed session for discussion of the appointment or election of a new board member.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-560 et seq.
 32-1308
 84-1410(1)(d)

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 201.03 Qualifications

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY

Board members shall not be held personally liable for actions taken in the performance of their duties and responsibilities vested in them by the laws of Nebraska and the members of the school district community. In carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their office, board members shall act in good faith.

The school district shall defend, save harmless and indemnify board members against tort claims or demands, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring within the scope of their official duties, unless it constitutes a willful or wanton act or omission. However, the school district shall not save harmless or indemnify board members for punitive damages.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-516

Cross Reference: 805.01 Insurance

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

The School Board recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees that extend beyond the responsibilities and duties delegated by law.

The following principles of conduct will serve as a guide for the official conduct of School Board members.

1. I will view service on a School Board as an opportunity to serve my community, state, and nation because I believe public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve self government.
2. I will work unremittingly to help the people in my community understand the importance of public education and to support willingly the highest level of education we can afford.
3. I will try to make decisions in terms of the best interest of the educational welfare of children. I will seek to provide an education opportunity equally open to all children regardless of ability, race, creed, sex, or location of residence.
4. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to run the schools but to see that they are well run. I will confine my School Board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal.
5. I will refuse to represent special interest or partisan politics or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends or supporters.
6. I will arrive at conclusions only after I have discussed matters fully with members of the professional staff and School Board members. Once a decision has been reached by the majority of the School Board assemblies at the meeting, I will support it graciously.
7. I will recognize that authority vests with the whole School Board outside of a meeting and that I have no legal status to bind the School Board outside of a meeting.
8. I will support and protect school personnel in performance of their duties. I will vote only for competent and trained technical and professional personnel who have been properly recommended by the appropriate administrative officer.
9. I will refer all complaints, including my personal criticisms to the appropriate administrative officer. Only after failure of administrative solution will I discuss such matters at a regular School Board meeting.
10. I will observe and enforce state laws and regulations pertaining to public education.
11. I will respect the limited intent and scope of executive session and respect privileged communications from executive sessions and other administrative sources.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 202.02 Board Member Conflict of Interest

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It shall be the responsibility of each board member to be aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest. It shall also be the responsibility of each board member to take the action necessary to eliminate such a conflict of interest. Should a conflict of interest arise, a board member should not participate in any action relating to the issue from which the conflict arose.

No voting board member may have an interest in any contract to which the district, or anyone for its benefit, is party. The prohibition applies when the board member or the board member's immediate family is a partner, director, officer, or is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth one thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than a five per cent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. An individual who occupies a confidential professional relationship protected by law is exempt from this policy. This policy does not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account.

The above prohibition does not apply if the voting board member:

1. Supplies a written statement describing the matter up for decision and the nature of the conflict to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and to the board secretary. The secretary shall enter the statement onto the public records of the district.
2. The board member must take such action as the Commission advises to remove himself or herself from influence over the decision.
3. Does not vote on the matter of granting the contract, except if the number of members of the board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board, with all members present, from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matter and this action will be reported to the commission; and
4. Does not act for the district to inspect, supervise or determine the performance of contracts under which he or she has an interest.

A board member who is an employee of a business involved in a contract with the district and who has no ownership interest or will receive no direct fee or commission shall not be deemed to have an interest within the meaning of this policy. The receiving of deposits, cashing of checks and buying and selling of warrants and bonds of indebtedness of any school district by a financial institution will not be considered an interest in the contract under this policy.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

If a board member's immediate family member is an employee of the school district, the member may vote on all issues of the contract which are generally applicable to all employees or all employees within a classification and do not single out his or her family member for special action.

Any contract entered into with an interested board member shall be subject to applicable competitive bidding requirements and shall be fair and reasonable to the school district.

A voting board member or district employee may employ, recommend the employment of, or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if he or she does not abuse his or her official position and makes a full disclosure of the relationship to the board and a written disclosure of the relationship to the board secretary. No board member or administrator shall employ an immediate family member without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment. The family member must be qualified for, able to perform, and required to perform the duties of the position. The family member must not be paid an unreasonably high salary. No existing employee may be terminated for the purpose of making a position available to such a family member.

Any newly elected or appointed board member or administrator shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy as soon as reasonably possible after the date of taking office.

No board member or district employee shall use their position or any confidential information received through their position to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, an immediate family member, or a business with which the individual is associated. No board member shall use or authorize the use of personnel, property, resources or funds under his or her official care for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question.

The superintendent shall keep a record for the district for every contract entered into by the district in which a board member has an interest. This information shall be kept for five years from the date of the board member's last day in office and will include the following:

1. Names of contracting parties;
2. The nature of the interest of the board member in question;
3. The date that the contract was approved by the district;
4. The amount of the contract; and
5. Basic terms of the contract.

The record kept by the superintendent shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours of the superintendent's office.

All board members and district employees are responsible for obeying all final rulings or appeals of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. If a case is contested before the Commission by the district, the superintendent shall ensure that the district is represented at the hearing. If a case is contested by a board member, that member shall be responsible for his/her own representation and shall be responsible for any Commission fines or penalties.

An open account established by the district with a business in which a board member has an interest, shall be deemed a contract subject to the provisions of this policy. The superintendent shall maintain a running account of all amounts purchased in open accounts.

Contracts involving one hundred dollars or less in which a board member may have an interest are excluded from the provisions of this policy.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 49-1493 to 14,103.7

Cross Reference: 201 Legal Status of the School Board
202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics
206.04 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
402.04 Nepotism

NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION 11 th Floor, State Capitol P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522	POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT	POSTMARK DATE	
		MICROFILM NUMBER	
BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 3		OFFICE USE ONLY	
NADC FORM C-2A (Village, City, School Officials Except Omaha and Lincoln Officials)			

- An official of a village or city holding elective office or an official of a school district holding elective office must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.
- **Officials of the cities of Lincoln and Omaha** holding elective office with a potential conflict of interest **should not use this form.** Use Form C-2.
- This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the school district, city or village. **There is no requirement to file this form with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.**
- Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

ITEM 1	NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
---------------	---

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Last First Middle

Address _____

STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE City STATE ZIP CODE

ITEM 2	TITLE, AGENCY (City, Village, School), ADDRESS AND PHONE
---------------	---

Your Title _____ Agency _____

Agency Address _____

Agency Phone _____

ITEM 3	DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 6 Continuation, if necessary)
---------------	--

Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: _____

Description of Potential Conflict:

ITEM 4 | PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

You

Member of your Immediate Family: _____
NAME

Business With Which You
Are Associated (See Definitions) _____
NAME OF BUSINESS

ITEM 5 | NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

ITEM 6 | CONTINUATION

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

General Information - Filing Requirements

I. What is a Potential Conflict of Interest? - A public official has a potential conflict of interest if he or she is faced with taking an official action or making an official decision which may result in a financial benefit or a financial detriment to the public official; a member of his or her immediate family; or a business with which he or she is associated. The financial effect of the action or decision must be distinguishable from the financial effect on the general public or a broad segment of it.

II. Who Must File:

- A. An official of a city or village holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest. An official of the cities of Lincoln or Omaha holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest should not file this form, but instead should use Form C-2.
- B. An official of a school district holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest.
- C. An elective office is a public office normally filled by an election. A person appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office normally filled by election holds an elective office.

III. When and Where to File:

- A. This form should be filed as soon as the person holding elective office is aware that he or she may have a potential conflict of interest and prior to the time that the action is to be taken or the decision made.

- B. This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the governing body of the official holding elective office. For example, the person who keeps records for a city or village may be the city clerk or village clerk. **This form does not need to be filed with the Commission.**
- C. The person filing the form should abstain from participating in or voting on the matter in which he or she has a potential conflict of interest. However, if the person wants an opinion from the Commission as to whether he or she has an actual conflict of interest requiring abstention or non-participation, he or she may send a copy of the form to the Commission along with request for an opinion.

Disclosure of Contractual Interests by Local Officers. If you are a local elected official disclosing an interest in a contract or an open account in which a local governing body on which you serve is a party, use NADC Form C-3, Contractual Interest Statement.

Disclosure of the Employment of Immediate Family Members. If you are disclosing the employment of an immediate family member, use NADC Form C-4, Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement.

Definitions

Immediate family shall mean a child residing in your household, your spouse or an individual claimed by you or your spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Business shall mean any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, activity, or entity. NOTE: The definition includes for profit and non-profit entities.

Business with which you are associated shall mean a business: (1) of which you are the sole proprietor; (2) or in which you are a partner, director, or officer; (3) or in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 10 percent equity interest.

Elective office shall mean a public office filled by an election, except for federal offices. A person who is appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office which is ordinarily elective holds an elective office.

Person means a business, individual, proprietorship, firm partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, labor organization, company, corporation, association, committee, or any other organization or group of persons acting jointly.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-1499.03 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION 11th Floor, State Capitol P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">EMPLOYMENT OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</h2> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">NADC FORM C-4</p>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:15%; padding: 2px;">POSTMARK DATE</td> <td style="width:15%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">MICROFILM NUMBER</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">OFFICE USE ONLY</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 100px;"></td> </tr> </table>	POSTMARK DATE		MICROFILM NUMBER		OFFICE USE ONLY			
POSTMARK DATE										
MICROFILM NUMBER										
OFFICE USE ONLY										
<p style="text-align: center;">BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 3</p>										

- Public officials and employees employing, recommending employment, or supervising the employment of an immediate family member must disclose the employment either in writing or on the record to the governing body employing the immediate family member.
- File this form or other written disclosure with the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body employing the immediate family member.
- Person who fail to disclose the employment of immediate family members or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

ITEM 1	NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
---------------	---

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Last First Middle

Address _____

STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE City STATE ZIP CODE

ITEM 2	OFFICE OR POSITION, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, TERM OF OFFICE
---------------	---

Office or Position: _____ Term: _____

Identify City, County, District, or State Agency: _____

Address: _____ Telephone _____

ITEM 3	MEMBER OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY WHOM YOU INTEND TO EMPLOY, RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT, OR SUPERVISE (Use ITEM 5 CONTINUATION, if necessary)
---------------	--

A. Name _____	Relationship _____
Position _____	Employer _____ (IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)
B. Name _____	Relationship _____
Position _____	Employer _____ (IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)
C. Name _____	Relationship _____
Position _____	Employer _____ (IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)

ITEM 4 | FOR NEWLY ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

List members of your immediate family who were employed before your election or appointment, or prior to July 17, 1986 and are now employed or supervised by you.

A. Name _____ Relationship _____

Position _____ Employer _____
(IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)

Date Hired _____

B. Name _____ Relationship _____

Position _____ Employer _____
(IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)

Date Hired _____

(Use ITEM 5, CONTINUATION, if necessary)

ITEM 5 | CONTINUATION

(Signature)

(Date)

General Information - Filing Requirements

A public official or public employee may employ, recommend the employment of, or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:

- 1) he or she does not abuse his or her official position; and
- 2) makes a written disclosure with the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body or a disclosure on the record to the governing body; and
- 3) he or she has first made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment:

NOTE: Examples of abuse of one's position could include, but are not limited to, (1) providing an unreasonably high salary, (2) not requiring the employee to actually perform the duties of his or her position, (3) terminating another employee to make a position available for an immediate family member, (4) hiring an immediate family member who is not qualified to hold the position.

I. Who Must File:

A. Public officials and employees employing, recommending employment, or supervising the employment of an immediate family member must make a disclosure to the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body of the entity. Where applicable the disclosure may be made on the record to the governing body of the entity in lieu of a written disclosure.

B. Public officials and employees who currently employ or supervise an immediate family member(s) employed prior to the election or appointment of the public official or public employee or prior to July 17, 1986.

II. When to File:

A. Public officials and employees must file prior to employing, recommending employment, or supervising the employment of an immediate family member.

B. Newly elected or appointed public officials or employees shall file prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after the official date of taking office.

III. Where to File:

This form or other written disclosure should be filed with the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body of the entity served. (i.e., state officials and employees file with the head of their agency or department; officials and employees of public power districts file with the district office; county officials and employees file with the county clerk; city or village officials or employees file with the city or village clerk; officials and employees of natural resource districts file with the office of the district manager; school district officials and employees file with the district superintendent or secretary of the school board. **Disclosure need not be made to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.**

Disclosure of Contractual Interests by Local Officers. If you are disclosing an interest in a contract to which a local governing body on which you serve is a party, use NADC Form C-3, Contractual Interest Statement.

Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest by State Executive Branch Officials, Employees, and Others Required to file Statements of Financial Interests. If you are disclosing a potential conflict of interest under section 49-1499 of the Accountability Act, use NADC Form C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

Definitions

Governing body means the village board of a village, the city council of a city, the board of commissioners or board of supervisors of a county, the board of directors of a public power district, or any body with the ultimate power to determine the entity's policies and control its activities.

Immediate Family Member means a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by the public official or employee or his or her spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Public employee means an employee of the state or a political subdivision thereof.

Public official shall mean an official in the executive branch, an official in the legislative branch, or an elected or appointed official in the judicial branch of the state government or a political subdivision thereof; any elected or appointed members of a governing body of a state institution of high education.

Official in the executive branch means an official holding a state executive office as provided in Article IV, Constitution of Nebraska, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Tax Commissioner, the heads of such other executive departments as set forth in the Constitution or as may be established by law, a deputy thereto, or a member of any state board or commission.

Official in the legislative branch means a member or member-elect of the Legislature, a member of an official body established by and responsible to the Legislature, or employee thereof other than an individual employed by the state in a clerical or nonpolicymaking capacity.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-1499.01 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

ITEM 4

NATURE AND EXTENT OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CONTRACT AND AMOUNT OF CONTRACT (Use ITEM 5, CONTINUATION, if necessary)

ITEM 5

CONTINUATION

(Signature)

(Date)

General Information - Filing Requirements

I. Who Must File:

A local officer with an interest in a contract to which his or her governing body or anyone for its benefit is a party must disclose the interest on the record of the body responsible for approving the contract, or in writing by filing this form.

II When to File:

An officer must declare his or her interest in a contract and the nature and extent of the interest **prior** to official consideration of the contract. The information concerning the contract listed in ITEM 3 of this form must be provided to the person in charge of keeping records of the governing body within 10 days after the contract is signed by both parties.

III. Where to File:

File with the person charged with keeping records for the governing body involved in the contract. For example, members of a County Board of Commissioners file with the County Clerk.

Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest by State Executive Branch Officials, Employees, and Others required to file Statements of Financial Interest. If you are disclosing a potential conflict of interest under section 49-1499 of the Accountability Act, use NADC Form C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

Disclosure of the Employment of Immediate Family Members. If you are disclosing the employment of an immediate family member, use NADC Form C-4, Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement.

Officer means a member of the board of directors of a natural resources district, a member of any board or commission of any county, school district, city or village which spends and administers its own funds, who is dealing with a contract made by such board or commission, and any elected county, school district, educational service unit, city, or village official, and a member of any board of directors or trustees of a district hospital as provided by the Nebraska Local hospital District Act or a county hospital as provided by sections 23-343 to 23-343.19. Officer shall **not** mean volunteer firefighters or ambulance drivers with respect to their duties as firefighters or ambulance drivers.

Governing Body means the board of directors of a natural resources district, the board of supervisors or the board of commissioners of any county, a school district board, the board of an educational service unit, the city council of a city, the village board of a village, the board of directors or trustees of a district hospital as provided by the Nebraska Local Hospital District Act, sections 23-343.20 to 23-343.47, or a county hospital as provided by sections 23-343 to 23-343.19, or any board or commission of any county, school district, city or village which spends and administers its own funds.

An officer has an **interest** in a contract when the officer or his or her spouse, parent, or child: (a) has a business association as defined in sections 49-1408 and 49-14,103.01(5) with the business involved in the contract, or (b) will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract. An officer interested in a contract with his or her governing body may not: (1) vote on the matter of granting the contract, or (2) act for the governing body as to inspection or performance under the contract.

An **open account** established for the benefit of any governing body with a business in which an officer has an interest is considered a contract subject to disclosure requirements.

For purposes of contractual interest conflicts, as covered by section 49-14,103.01, ownership of less than five percent of the outstanding shares of a corporation shall not constitute an interest subject to disclosure.

Receiving deposits, cashing checks, and buying and selling warrants and bonds of indebtedness of a governing body by a financial institution is **not** considered a contract.

Any governing body as defined below may prohibit officers from having an interest in contracts over a specific dollar amount. A governing body may also exempt from disclosure requirements contracts for one hundred dollars or less in which an officer of the body has an interest.

Definitions

Business means any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, activity or entity.

Business with which you are associated means a business: (1) in which you are a partner, director or officer; or (2) in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 10 percent equity interest.

For purposes of contractual interest conflicts, as covered by section 49-14,103.01, ownership of less than five percent of the outstanding shares of a corporation shall not constitute an interest subject to disclosure.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-14,103.01 R.S. Supp., 1987, and sections 49-14,103.02 to 49-14,103.07 R.S. Supp., 1986.

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

An annual organizational board meeting shall be held at which all newly elected board members will assume their duties and take the oath of office. At the annual meeting, the board shall appoint all necessary board officers and committees.

The superintendent shall assume chairmanship of the meeting for the purpose of electing a board president. Ballots for officers may be cast in secret but the total vote for each candidate shall be recorded by the secretary.

The board shall also appoint the superintendent or another qualified employee as the district's Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator for the year to meet federal Equal Employment Opportunity requirements.

The board shall pass a resolution for re-adoption of all existing policies, regulations, and handbooks for the governance of the district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-724
 84-712
 84-1413

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SECRETARY

It shall be the responsibility of the board to annually appoint a board secretary. The secretary shall take the oath of office.

A board secretary may be appointed from employees, from the public or from among board members at the annual board organizational meeting.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary, as custodian of school district records, to preserve and maintain the records and documents pertaining to the business of the board; to keep complete minutes of special and regular board meetings; to cause the meeting minutes and a list of all approved claims to be published; to keep a record of the results of regular and special elections; to keep an accurate account of school funds; to sign warrants drawn on the school funds after board approval; and to complete and maintain the annual school census. The board secretary is also responsible for filing the required reports with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-528
 79-564
 79-576 to 580

Cross Reference: 104.01 Annual School Census
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting
 203.05 Treasurer
 204.11 Meeting Minutes

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

TREASURER

It shall be the responsibility of the board to annually appoint a board treasurer.

It shall be the responsibility of the treasurer to receive the funds collected for the district by the county treasurer, to pay out the funds for expenses approved by the board, to maintain accurate accounting records for each fund, to manage district's investments for the maximum benefit to the district, to report monthly and annually the status of all district funds and investments, and to file required reports with the appropriate state agencies and other entities.

The treasurer will work with the secretary to coordinate the recording, preserving and reporting of financial records, reports, cash flow needs and district investments.

If the treasurer is unable or unwilling to carry out the duties required, it shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or other person designated by the board to carry out the duties of the treasurer.

The treasurer shall do one of the following within ten days after election to the position:

1. Give bond in an amount set by the board of not less than \$500 and not more than double the amount of money to come into his/her hands as treasurer at any one time.
2. Give evidence of an equal amount of insurance coverage by the district.

The cost of the bond or insurance coverage will be paid by the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-586 to 590

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting
 203.04 Secretary
 700 Business Operation

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD COMMITTEES

The only standing committee is the Americanism Committee and its three members will be appointed at the beginning of each school year by the board president. The duties of the Americanism Committee are those set forward by state statute:

1. to carefully examine, inspect, and approve all textbooks used in the teaching of American history and civil government in the school;
2. to assure themselves as to the character of all teachers employed, and the knowledge and acceptance of the American form of government; and
3. take all such other step as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of statute 79-724 which address the development and teaching of citizenship, patriotism, and knowledge of American history.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-724

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

It shall be the responsibility of the board to employ legal counsel to assist the board and the administration in carrying out their duties with respect to the numerous legal issues confronting the school district. The board may appoint legal counsel on an annual basis.

The superintendent and board president shall have the authority to contact the board's legal counsel on behalf of the board when the superintendent or board president believe it is necessary for the management of the school district. The board's legal counsel may attend regular or special school board meetings upon the request of the board or the superintendent. Other board members may contact legal counsel upon approval of a majority of the board. It shall be the responsibility of each board member to pay the legal fees, if any, of an attorney the board member consulted regarding matters of the school district unless the board has authorized the board member to consult an attorney on the matter in accordance with this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed of matters for which legal counsel was consulted, particularly if the legal services will involve unusual expense for the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-513

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

The regular meeting time and date shall be set by the board at its organizational meeting. The regular meetings of the board will be held on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise scheduled by the board.

The board shall generally adhere to this meeting date unless the board requires additional meetings or, due to circumstances beyond the board's control, the meeting cannot be held on the regular meeting date, and the meeting will be re-scheduled at the board's convenience. Public notice of the meetings shall be given.

The board shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

All actions taken by the board shall occur in open session by a roll call vote of the board with a record of the voting kept for the minutes. The voting requirements may be met by using an electronic voting device which allows the vote of each board member to be readily seen by the public.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-554
 79-560
 79-561
 84-1412

Cross Reference: 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the superintendent, the president of the board or any two board members. Should a special meeting be called, public notice shall be given and the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the open meetings laws.

If the special meeting called is an emergency meeting and the board cannot give public notice in its usual manner, the board shall give public notice of the meeting as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. The reason for the emergency meeting and why notice in its usual manner could not be given shall be stated in the minutes. Minutes of the emergency meeting must be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

Only the purpose or issue for which the emergency meeting was called may be discussed and decided in the emergency meeting. The board shall strictly adhere to the agenda for the emergency meeting and action on other issues shall be reserved for the next regular or special board meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-554
 79-555
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public notice of a public hearing shall be in the same manner as for a board meeting and shall be given at least two days before the hearing is to be held.

At public hearings, citizens of the district who register to speak will be allowed to speak only on the issue for which the public hearing is being held. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks as brief as possible. Prior to the beginning of the hearing, speakers and spectators will be apprised of the rules of order to be followed regarding time limitations, questions, remarks and rebuttals. In no event will a speaker be allowed to take the time of another speaker.

The board shall conduct public hearings in an orderly fashion. At the beginning of the hearing statements, background materials and public hearing rules and procedures will be presented by the board president or administrators. The board president will recognize the speakers. A board member may ask questions of the speakers after receiving permission from the board president. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the board or the proceedings shall be asked to leave.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 et seq.

Cross Reference: 702.03 Budget Adoption Process
 1005.03 Parental Involvement in the Schools

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

OPEN MEETINGS

A gathering of a majority of board members for the purposes of briefing, discussion of board business, formation of policy or taking formal action is a board meeting. Meetings of the board shall be conducted in a meeting open to the public unless the board is temporarily convened in a closed session.

Chance or social gatherings, attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops or other occasions when there is no discussion of or action on any matter within the board's supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power will not constitute a meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1410

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

CLOSED SESSIONS

A closed, or executive, session will take place as part of an open meeting of the board. The item for discussion in the closed session shall be listed as part of the tentative agenda on the public notice. The motion for a closed session, including its subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session, shall be made and seconded during the open meeting, and approved by a majority of the voting members. The minutes shall state the entire motion for the closed session, the roll call vote to enter closed session, and the time the closed session began and ended. Following approval of the motion to close, the presiding officer shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session immediately prior to the closed session.

The board shall restrict its considerations to only those matters set forth in the minutes as the reason for the closed session. A closed session may be held (1) if it is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or (2) for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Specific reasons for the board entering into a closed session from an open meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, or litigation;
2. Discussion regarding the use of security personnel or devices;
3. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
4. Evaluations of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if that person has not requested a public meeting.

No formal action may be taken until the board has reconvened in open session.

Any board member may challenge the continuation of a closed session if he or she believes the session has exceeded the reason stated in the motion to hold the closed session. A majority vote of the board is required in order to overrule the challenge. The challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1410

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

MEETING NOTICE

Reasonable advance public notice shall be given for meetings and work sessions held by the board by a method designated and recorded in the board minutes. Public notice shall indicate the meeting's time, place and date, and shall include a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the district office. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting and a copy kept readily available for public inspection at the principle office of the district. Except for items of an emergency nature the agenda shall not be altered later than 24 hours before the meeting. The usual method of giving advance notice of meetings shall be posting of the notice in at least three public places throughout the district. The board may also, but is not required to, publish notice of its meeting in a local newspaper.

A copy of the public notice will be provided to those who have filed a request for notice with the superintendent. These requests for notice must be in writing. A copy of the public notice will also be accessible to employees and students.

In the case of special meetings, public notice shall be given in the same manner as for a regular meeting unless it is an emergency meeting. Public notice of emergency meetings shall be given as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. Reasonable efforts shall be made to notify news media who have requested notification of meetings.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to give public notice of board meetings and work sessions. The superintendent shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414
 79-554
 79-560
 79-561

Cross Reference: 204.01 Regular Meetings
 204.02 Special Meetings
 204.10 Agenda

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

MEETING MINUTES

The board shall keep and maintain permanent records of the board including, but not limited to, records of the minutes of board meetings, documentation received or disclosed in open session of the meetings, and other required records of the board.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to keep the minutes of the board meetings. The minutes of each board meeting shall include as a minimum the following items: a record of the date, time, place, members present, action taken and the vote of each member, and the schedule of bills allowed shall be attached. The minutes shall also include all required information regarding any closed sessions as stated in policy 204.06. This information shall be available within 10 days of the board meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, if earlier. Minutes shall be forwarded to the newspaper designated as the official newspaper for publication. The schedule of bills allowed may be published on a once monthly basis in lieu of publication with the minutes. The permanent records of the board minutes may include more detail than is required for the publication of the minutes.

Minutes awaiting approval at the next board meeting will be available for inspection at the central office of the district after the office transcribes the notes into a document which has been proofread for errors and corrected.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-577
 79-580
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 203 Organization of the School Board
 1003 Public Examination of District Records
 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PUBLIC COMMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board shall set time aside for public comment, at a specific time during the meeting and/or prior to the discussion of each agenda item. If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice at a particular meeting and will announce that decision at the beginning of the meeting. The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted. Subjects for comment should involve areas within the board's proper responsibility.

The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public comment. The board president shall specify the total amount of time available for public comment prior to opening the public comment period. If public comment is allowed prior to individual agenda items, that limit on the total comment period should also be defined. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes for each participant. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

Citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item should notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board relating to that item may do so at this time. However, the board will only receive the petitions and will not act upon them or their contents.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees or students who have complaints shall follow policies 403.05 and 504.01 respectively. The board will follow policy 1005.01 in handling public complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting. Adding such information to the agenda packet will be at the discretion of the superintendent after consultation with the board president.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.07 Board Member Liability
403.05 Public Complaints about Employees

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS

In order to assure that citizens who wish to appear before the School Board may be heard, and, at the same time, conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the following procedures have been adopted:

1. Any individual who desires to speak about an item on the agenda, is asked to present the “request to speak” to the superintendent or the School Board President. The request may be communicated orally prior to the meeting or in written form or by a raised hand during the meeting.
2. Persons who wish to speak about an item that is not on the agenda are asked to present such request to the superintendent or the School Board President prior to the beginning of the meeting. Persons who present such a request will be allowed to speak about the topic before the meeting is adjourned.
3. Citizens, who desire School Board action on an item not on the agenda, will submit the item to the superintendent’s office, at least 10 days prior to the meeting of the School Board, at which they wish the item to be considered.
4. Presentations should be as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted, a speaker will be limited to five minutes.
5. Conduct shall comply with the policy on Public Conduct on School Property.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The board has jurisdiction to determine the policies which will govern the operations of the school district with the force and effect of law.

The written policy statements contained in this manual provide guidelines and goals to the citizens, administration, employees and students in the school district community. The policy statements shall be the basis for the formulation of regulations by the administration. The board shall determine the effectiveness of the policy statements by evaluating periodic reports from the administration.

Policy statements may be proposed by a board member, administrator, employee, student or member of the school district community. Proposed policy statements or ideas shall be submitted to the superintendent's office for possible placement on the board agenda. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to bring these proposals to the attention of the board.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526
 79-532
 79-539
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATION IN THE ABSENCE OF POLICY

When there is no board policy in existence to provide guidance on a matter, the superintendent is authorized to act appropriately, keeping in mind the educational philosophy and financial condition of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to document the action taken and to inform the board of the situation. If needed, the superintendent shall draft a proposed policy for the board to consider.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 302.04 Superintendent Duties

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

Each new board member shall be given an orientation program under the direction of the superintendent. This briefing shall include a current copy of the board policy manual, the budget, the latest annual report and such other documents as the superintendent may include to foster an understanding of the operation of the district. The superintendent shall set aside such time as is necessary to answer any questions arising from the study of these documents, and shall cooperate fully in assisting the new member to become an informed and active board member.

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 202 School Board Member Conduct

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The board may participate in conferences sponsored by educational associations and agencies in addition to its own in-service programs and work sessions.

The board shall encourage its members to attend training and development programs with the purpose of improving members' leadership skills, increasing their knowledge of educational issues and better representing the interests of the school district.

Cross Reference: 206.02 Board Association Membership

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

As an elected public official, the board member is a public servant who serves without compensation. Board members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Prior to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, the board member must submit a detailed receipt indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. A credit card receipt is generally not considered a detailed receipt. Failure to provide a detailed receipt shall make the expense nonreimbursable. Personal expenses shall be reimbursed by the board member to the school district within 10 working days of the next regular meeting of the board. In exceptional circumstances, the board may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances shall be maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to compile the expenses of board members and bring them to the board for audit and approval in the same manner as other claims of the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the board to determine through the audit and approval process of the board whether the expenses incurred by a board member are actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 13-2201 et seq.
 79-546
 81-1174 to 1177

Cross Reference: 202.02 Board Member Conflict of Interest
 402.08 Employee Travel Compensation
 402.11 Credit Cards

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____