

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL

CONFLICT OF INTEREST BYLAW

1. Members (executive, committee or members at large) of the Bowmore School Council (“BSC”) shall declare a conflict of interest where they or members of their immediate families may have a personal or financial interest in an issue that is before the BSC for consideration that a reasonable, well informed person might think could influence one’s judgment while carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities as a member of BSC.
2. In the event that a member has a conflict of interest with respect to a matter under consideration at a meeting of the BSC Executive, the member shall:
 - a. declare the conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting and before the matter is discussed;
 - b. refrain from participating in the discussion of the matter;
 - c. refrain from voting on the matter; and
 - d. refrain from attempting to influence another member of the BSC before, during or after the consideration of the matter.
3. The declaration of the conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
4. The BSC may, by vote, waive compliance with Section 2(b) and (c) where the financial or personal interest declared is trivial.
5. A member shall not accept favours or economic benefits from any individuals, organizations or entities known to be seeking new or continued business contracts with the BSC.

Examples of conflicts of interest include:

- A. BSC directs a member to express concern to the principal about certain behavior in the playground. The individual is employed at the school. Discussing playground policy might require the individual to disagree with the principal or employer (the school board), and might even put him/her in breach of their collective agreement. He/She might not be comfortable, or able, to represent the BSC’s concerns in the way the parents expect. The individual has a financial interest in protecting her job.
- B. The BSC chooses a parent who is also a teacher in the TDSB to represent the BSC on a particular committee. Other members of the committee, as well as the broader community, may not feel confident that the particular parent is speaking solely in the interests of parents. This perception of bias may diminish what the parent has to say.
- C. The BSC is voting to donate \$800 to pay for buses for a school trip. As a result, the student trip fee to be paid by parents will be reduced by \$20.00. A member of the BSC has a child who will be attending the trip, and will therefore potentially receive an indirect financial benefit. The BSC can vote to waive the conflict of interest because the potential financial gain is trivial.

APPROVED MAY 17, 2012