



SUMTER STEAM CHARTER SCHOOL - CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to protect the Sumter STEAM Charter School (“Corporation”) and its tax-exempt status when the Corporation is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that involves certain individuals that have a special relationship with the Corporation, either directly or through family or business relationships. The law imposes a fiduciary duty on the Corporation’s directors, which carries with it a broad and unbending duty of loyalty to the Corporation. The directors have the responsibility of administering the Corporation’s affairs honestly and prudently, and of exercising their best care, skill, and judgment for the Corporation’s sole benefit. As such, they shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions involved in their duties, and they shall not use their positions with the Corporation or knowledge gained therefrom for improper private benefit. The interests of the Corporation must be the first priority in each director’s decisions and actions. This Policy is intended to supplement but not replace applicable laws governing conflicts of interest for nonprofits. This policy supersedes the existing conflict of interest policy adopted by the full board on January 10, 2020.

2 DEFINITION OF INTERESTED PERSON AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

2.1 Interested Person

An “Interested Person” shall include:

- a) any director, officer, member of a committee with board-delegated power, or key employee of the Corporation (an employee with decision-making authority);
- b) any family member of the individuals described above¹; and
- c) any corporation, trust, or other entity in which persons described above hold more than 35 percent of the total combined voting power.

2.2 Conflict of Interest

A “Conflict of Interest” is any transaction or arrangement involving the Corporation, which directly or indirectly benefits an Interested Person.

¹ A person’s family is limited to: (i) Spouse; (ii) Brothers or sisters (by whole or half-blood); (iii) Spouses of brothers or sisters (by whole or half-blood); (iv) Ancestors; (v) Children; (vi) Grandchildren; (vii) Great-grandchildren; and (viii) Spouses of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

3 ANNUAL STATEMENTS

3.1 Annual Affirmations

Each director, officer, member of a committee with board-delegated power, or key employees of the Corporation shall annually sign a statement which affirms that such person:

- a) has received a copy of this Policy;
- b) has read and understands the Policy;
- c) has disclosed on the annual statement all known potential Conflicts of Interest that may arise, or have arisen; and
- d) agrees to comply with the Policy.

3.2 Recordkeeping

The Corporation's Board of Directors shall maintain the annual Conflict of Interest Affirmations referenced in section 3.1.

4 PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4.1 Loyalty to the Corporation

The Corporation must be careful in undertaking transactions with Interested Persons to ensure that the transaction is in the best interest of the Corporation and that the Interested Person is not receiving an improper private benefit. This may include, but is not limited to, those transactions involving Interested Persons with decision-making authority in the Corporation.

4.2 Duty to Disclose and Recuse from Discussion and Vote

Interested Persons with decision-making authority in the Corporation have a duty to disclose the existence of a potential Conflict of Interest in any proposed transaction or arrangement under consideration by the Corporation. After disclosure of the interest and all material facts related thereto by the Interested Person, including any initial questioning by the independent individuals on the board or committee, the Interested Person with the Conflict of Interest shall recuse himself or herself and is not permitted to participate in any discussion or vote, on the transaction or arrangement.

4.3 Investigation and Due Diligence Analysis

The Corporation has a duty to investigate alternatives to any proposed transaction or arrangements involving Interested Persons to determine whether the proposed action is in the best interest of the Corporation. If appropriate, the Chair of the Board may appoint a disinterested person or committee to perform this investigation. After exercising due diligence, the board or committee shall determine whether the Corporation can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a Conflict of Interest.

4.4 Decision-Making Process

If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a Conflict of Interest, the board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Corporation's best interest and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation, and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.

4.5 Contemporaneous Reporting

The acts taken to comply with this Policy, including the disclosure of the Conflict of Interest and the individuals voting on the proposed transaction, shall be contemporaneously recorded in writing by the Corporation in the minutes of the meeting.

5 VIOLATIONS OF THE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

If the board or committee has cause to believe that a director, officer, member of a committee, or key employee has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the individual of the basis for such belief and provide an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

If, after hearing the response and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the independent board or committee determines that he or she has in fact knowingly failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action, including suspension or removal from his or her position with the Corporation.

6 COMPENSATION AND AVOIDING EXCESS BENEFITS

6.1 Duty to Recuse for Compensation

An Interested Person who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Corporation for services, whether as an employee or an independent contractor, is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to his/her compensation or any benefits provided by the Corporation to the individual.

6.2 Review of Compensation Arrangements

All compensation arrangements between the Corporation and an Interested Person shall be reviewed at least every other year by the Corporation to assure that compensation is reasonable and is the result of arms-length bargaining.