I. **Purpose of Policy:**

The purpose of this policy is to observe state statutes regarding conflicts of interest for charter school board members and to engage in charter school business activities in a fashion designed to avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

II. **General Statement:**

The policy of the charter school board is to conform to statutory conflict of interest laws and act in a manner that will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance thereof.

III. **Conflicting Business Relationships:**

A. An individual is prohibited from serving as a member of the charter school board of directors if the individual, an immediate family member, or the individual's partner is a full or part owner or principal with a for-profit or nonprofit entity or independent contractor with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities. An individual is prohibited from serving as a board member if an immediate family member is an employee of the school. A violation of this prohibition renders a contract voidable at the option of the commissioner or the charter school board of directors. A member of a charter school board of directors who violates this prohibition is individually liable to the charter school for any damage caused by the violation.

B. No member of the board of directors, employee, officer, or agent of a charter school shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists. A conflict exists when:

1. the board member, employee, officer, or agent;
2. the immediate family of the board member, employee, officer, or agent;
3. the partner of the board member, employee, officer, or agent; or
4. an organization that employs, or is about to employ any individual in clauses (1) to (3), has a financial or other interest in the entity with which the charter school is contracting. A violation of this prohibition renders the contract void.

C. Any employee, agent, or board member of the authorizer who participates in the initial review, approval, ongoing oversight, evaluation, or the charter renewal or nonrenewal process or decision is ineligible to serve on the board of directors of a school chartered by that authorizer.

D. An individual may serve as a member of the board of directors if no conflict of interest under paragraph (a) exists.
E. The conflict of interest provisions under this subdivision do not apply to compensation paid to a teacher employed as a teacher by the charter school or a teacher who provides instructional services to the charter school through a cooperative formed under chapter 308A when the teacher also serves on the charter school board of directors.

Legal References (the following are included for reference purposes only, may not reflect the most current relevant statutory citation, and should not be read to contravene or limit the school's obligations under any federal, state, or local law):

Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, Subd. 4a (Charter Schools; Conflict of Interest)