

Adopted: February 13, 2014

Revised: August 8, 2016; February 14, 2022

## **COMMUNITY OF PEACE ACADEMY POLICY No. 2.5.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Community of Peace Academy its Board of Directors, employees, officers, and agents do not engage in actions that create a conflict of interest.

### **II. POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board of Community of Peace Academy is committed to full compliance with the applicable provisions of state law.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Board” means the duly appointed or elected Board members of Community of Peace Academy.
- B. “Control” means the ability to affect the management, operations, or policy actions or decisions of a person.
- C. “Affiliate” means a person that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person.
- D. “Person” means an individual or entity of any kind.
- E. “Immediate Family” means an individual whose relationship by blood, marriage, adoption, or partnering is no more remote than a first cousin.
- F. “Related Party” means an affiliate or immediate relative of the other party in question, an affiliate of an immediate relative, or an immediate relative of an affiliate.

#### **IV. LIMITATIONS ON BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

- A. An individual is prohibited from serving as a member of the Board if:
  - 1. The individual, an immediate family member, or the individual's partner;
  - 2. Is a full or part owner or principal with;
  - 3. A for-profit, nonprofit entity, or independent contractor;
  - 4. With whom the Board contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities.
- B. An individual is prohibited from serving as a Board member if an immediate family member is an employee of the school.
- C. Violations
  - 1. **Contract Voided.** A violation of this policy or the law underlying this policy renders a contract voidable at the option of the Minnesota Commissioner of Education or the Board.
  - 2. **Personal Liability.** A member of the Board who violates this prohibition is individually liable to the school for any damage caused by the violation.
- D. Any employee, agent, or board member of Community of Peace Academy's 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.

#### **V. LIMITATION ON CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

- A. No Board member, employee, officer, or agent of Community of Peace Academy shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists.
- B. A conflict of interest exists when any of the following individuals or an organization employing one of these individuals, has a financial interest in an entity with which the school is contracting:
  - 1. A board member, employee, officer, or agent of Community of Peace Academy;

2. The immediate family of the board member, employee, officer, or agent; or
3. The partner of the board member, employee, officer, or agent.

C. A violation of this paragraph renders the contract void.

D. The conflict-of-interest provisions under this policy do not apply to compensation paid to a licensed teacher employed by Community of Peace Academy who also serves as a member of the Board of Directors.

E. A charter school board member, employee, or officer is a local official with regard to the receipt of gifts. A board member, employee, or officer must not receive compensation from a group health insurance provider.

## **VI. LIMITATIONS ON LEASES AND OTHER CONTRACTS**

A. Contracts with Authorizer. Community of Peace Academy will disclose to the Commissioner of Education any potential contract, lease, or purchase of service from its authorizer.

B. Community of Peace Academy will accept any such contract only through an open bidding process, properly documented, and the contract must be a separate contract from a Community of Peace Academy contract. Community of Peace Academy will not enter into a contract with its authorizer to provide management and financial services for the school without documenting that it received at least two competitive bids.

C. Leases of Property. Community of Peace Academy will not enter a lease of real property with a related party unless the lessor is a nonprofit corporation under Chapter 317A or a cooperative under Chapter 308A, and the lease cost is reasonably based on current market values.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. §124E.14, subd. 4(a) (Charter School Law–Conflict of Interest)  
Minn. Stat. §124E.06, subd. 4(d) (Charter School Law– Forming a School)  
Minn. Stat. §124E.13, subd. 2 (Charter School Law–Related Party Lease Costs)  
Minn. Stat. §317A (Non-Profit Law)  
Minn. Stat § 471.895 (Certain Gifts by Interested Persons Prohibited)