

Andrea E. White
Ashley C. Story
J. Alexander Sherard
Michael D. Davidson
Dylan Crossland



3614 Landmark Dr. Ste. EF
P.O. Box 7036 (29202)
Columbia, SC 29204
Tel: 803.814.0993
Fax: 803.814.1183
www.sodacitylaw.com

J. Alexander Sherard
Direct Dial: 803.626.1779
asherard@sodacitylaw.com

School Board Ethics in a Nutshell

This document should not be considered legal advice and should only be consumed for educational purposes.

Websites

- Ethics Commission <https://ethics.sc.gov/>
- Statement of Economic Interest: <https://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/public/statement-economic-interests>
- Ethics Statutes: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t08c013.php#8-13-560>
- Advisory Opinions: <https://ethics.sc.gov/advisory-opinions>

Recipe for a Conflict of Interest

- Economic Interest >\$50 not distinct from what is available to the general public
- To Benefit:
 - You
 - Family/Immediate Family (i.e., household)
 - Family Member=spouse, parent (in-laws), sibling (in-laws), child, grandparent, grandchild
 - Immediate Family=child in the household, spouse or anyone claimed as a dependent by a public servant or spouse.
 - Associate (a/k/a—your business partner)
 - Business (a/k/a—more than 5% in stock or \$100,00 in stock, or if you or your immediate family is employed, Director, holder of stock)

Board Operations Ripe for Conflicts

- Procurement
- Awarding of Contracts
- Hiring
- Employee Discipline
- Improvements to Public Land
- EXCEPTION:
 - Large Class
 - Zoning (not applicable to Boards but relevant)

Recusal

- Written Statement to Chair and
- Explain Conflict
- Fully Recuse

Confidentiality

- Cannot use info for personal gain
- Cannot peruse confidential information unless doing so officially

Miscellaneous Concerns

- Use of Equipment for Gain unless incidental and no funds expended
- No Post-Employment within a year (in most cases)
- Speaking Fees

Campaigns

- No use of District resources for campaigns
- Referendum—May not offer one-sided information as a Body.
- Contributions Deadlines (Ethics Website)

Following Election

- Gather your interests:
 - Compile a list of businesses or persons you are associated with as defined by the Ethics Act.
 - Be proactive
 - List of Names of Employees in Family

Statement of Economic Interest

- March 30 or before being sworn-in
 - If sworn and you have not done this, do it immediately.
- If you have not done it yet, reach out to the commission, who will assist you.

*****When in doubt, consult with your Board Chair and Board Attorney*****

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF GREENACRE)

BEFORE THE GREENACRE SCHOOL)
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

*In re: Susan Sherard, in her capacity)
as a public official)*

NOTICE OF RECUSAL

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE GREENACRE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned is a member of the Greenacre School Board of Trustees. This shall serve as notification of my recusal on the following meeting date and specific matter: Greenacre School District Regular Meeting; April 6, 2022 **“Personnel Hires and Recommendations – Individual A”**.

The reason for my recusal is as follows: in accordance with the S.C. Ethics Reform Act S.C. Code Ann. § **8-13-700** and Board Policy BCA – *Board Member Code of Ethics*, I am recusing myself from any official act that relates specifically to the employment of my immediate family member, Tripp Sherard. It is my understanding that the Director of Human Resources may recommend Mr. Sherard for a full time employment position with the District at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

I ask that a copy of this written document be attached to the minutes of the board meeting indicated herein as public notice of my recusal and my reasons for doing so. I respectfully request that no discussion of my immediate family member’s employment be discussed until I have left the room during the appropriate time on the agenda. I will not return to discussion until after a vote is taken.

Date: March 27, 2022

Susan Sherard
Board Member
Greenacre School District