

# The Cottonwood School

Code: AC  
Adopted:

## Nondiscrimination

The public charter school prohibits discrimination and harassment on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's perceived or actual race<sup>1</sup>, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, or veterans' status, or because of the perceived or actual race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, or veterans' status of any other persons with whom the individual associates.

The public charter school may not limit student enrollment based on ethnicity, national origin, race, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, income level, proficiency in English language, the terms of an individualized education program (IEP), or athletic ability, except as authorized under Oregon law. A public charter school may limit admission to students within a given grade level. The public charter school must select students through an equitable lottery selection process if the number of student applicants exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building. The public charter school may implement a weighted lottery that favors historically underserved students in accordance with ORS 338.125<sup>2</sup>. The public charter school may give priority for admission to students in accordance with ORS 338.125.

The public charter school prohibits discrimination and harassment in, but not limited to: employment, assignment and promotion of personnel; educational opportunities and services offered students; student assignment to the school and classes; student discipline; location and use of facilities; educational offerings and materials; and accommodating the public at public meetings.

The public charter school prohibits retaliation and discrimination against an individual who has opposed any discrimination act or practice or because that person has filed a charge, testified, assisted or participated in an investigation, proceeding or hearing, and further prohibits anyone from coercing, intimidating, threatening or interfering with an individual for exercising the rights guaranteed under state and federal law.

The Board encourages staff to improve human relations within the school, to respect all individuals, and to establish channels through which the school community can communicate their concerns to school administration and the Board.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes discriminatory use of a Native American mascot pursuant to OAR 581-021-0047. Race also includes physical characteristics that are historically associated with race, including but not limited to natural hair, hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles as defined by ORS 659A.001 (as amended by House Bill 2935 (2021)).

<sup>2</sup> As amended by House Bill 2954 (2021).

The Board directs the director to designate the public charter school’s civil rights coordinator and make contact information available to staff, students and parents.

The administrator shall appoint individuals at the public charter school to contact on issues concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, and other civil rights or discrimination issues, and notify students, parents, and employees with their names, office addresses, and phone numbers.

The Board will adopt and the public charter school will publish complaint procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints from students, employees, and the public, and such procedures will be available at the school’s administrative office during business hours and published on the home page of the school’s website.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

<a href="#">ORS 174.100</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.001</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.309</a>
<a href="#">ORS 192.630</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.003</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.321</a>
<a href="#">ORS 326.051(1)(e)</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.006</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.409</a>
<a href="#">ORS 338.115</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.009</a>	
<a href="#">ORS 338.125</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.029</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0045</a>
<a href="#">ORS 408.230</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.030</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0046</a>
<a href="#">ORS 659.805</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.040</a>	<a href="#">OAR 581-021-0047</a>
<a href="#">ORS 659.815</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.103 - 659A.145</a>	<a href="#">OAR 839-003</a>
<a href="#">ORS 659.850 - 659.860</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.230 - 659A.233</a>	
<a href="#">ORS 659.865</a>	<a href="#">ORS 659A.236</a>	

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107 (2018).

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-633 (2018); 29 C.F.R Part 1626 (2019).

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2019); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2019).

Equal Pay Act of 1963, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d) (2018).

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 791, 793-794 (2018); 34 C.F.R. Part 104 (2019).

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683, 1701, 1703-1705, 1720 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2018); 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.101-42.106 (2019).

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e (2018); 29 C.F.R. § 1601 (2019).

Wygant v. Jackson Bd. of Educ., 476 U.S. 267 (1989).

The Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, 38 U.S.C. § 4212 (2018).

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ff-1 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 (2019).

House Bill 2935 (2021).

House Bill 2954 (2021).

House Bill 3041 (2021).

# The Cottonwood School

Code: AC-AR  
Adopted:

## Discrimination Complaint Procedure

Any person, including students, staff, visitors and third parties may file a complaint.

Complaints regarding discrimination or harassment, on any basis protected by law, shall be processed in accordance with the following procedures. Students may speak to teachers or other staff members, who will be expected to follow these procedures:

**Step 1** Complaints may be oral or in writing and should be filed with the principal/academic director. Any staff member that receives a written or oral complaint shall report the complaint to the principal/academic director.

The principal/academic director shall investigate and determine the action to be taken, if any, and reply in writing to the complainant within 10 school days of receipt of the complaint.

**Step 2** If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the principal/academic director, the complainant may submit a written appeal to the executive director within five school days after receipt of the principal/academic administrator's response to the complaint.

The executive director or designee shall review the principal/academic director's decision within five school days and may meet with all parties involved. The executive director will respond in writing to the complainant within 10 school days.

**Step 3** If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the executive director or designee, a written appeal may be filed with the Board within five school days of receipt of the executive director's or designee's response in Step 2. The Board may decide to hear or deny the request for appeal at a Board meeting. If the Board decides to hear the appeal, the Board may meet with the concerned parties and their representative at a Board meeting. The Board's decision will address each allegation in the complaint and contain the reasons for the Board's decision. A copy of the Board's decision shall be sent to the complainant in writing within 30 days of receipt of the appeal by the Board.

If the Board decides not to hear the appeal the executive director's or designee's decision is final.

If the principal/academic director is the subject of the complaint the individual may start at Step 2 and file a complaint with the executive director. If the executive director is the subject of the complaint, the complaint may start at Step 3 and should be referred to the Board chair. The Board may refer the investigation to a third party.

Complaints against the Board as a whole or against an individual Board member may start at Step 3, should be submitted to the Board chair, and may be referred to counsel. Complaints against the Board chair may start at Step 3 and should be referred directly to the Board vice chair.

Timelines may be extended based upon mutual consent of the public charter school and the complainant in writing.

### **Appeal Process**

A decision reached by this public charter school board for a complaint of discrimination may be appealed to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) under OAR 581-002-0001 - 581-002-0023.

**The Cottonwood School**

**DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT FORM**

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Name of Person Filing Complaint                      Date                      School or Activity

Student/Parent  Employee  Job applicant  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of complaint:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Familial status    | <input type="checkbox"/> Income level            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic status    | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic ability        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' status   | <input type="checkbox"/> Proficiency in English  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Age                | language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National or ethnic origin     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input type="checkbox"/> Discriminatory use of a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental or physical disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender identity    | Native American mascot                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marital status                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____             |

Specific complaint: (Please provide detailed information including names, dates, places, activities and results of discussion.)

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Who should we talk to and what evidence should we consider?

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Suggested solution/resolution/outcome:

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This complaint form should be mailed or submitted to the principal/academic director.

Direct complaints related to educational programs and services may be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Direct complaints related to employment may be filed with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, Civil Rights Division or the U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

# The Cottonwood School

Code: ACA  
Adopted:

## Americans with Disabilities Act

The public charter school, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008 (ADA), is committed to maintaining employment practices, services, programs and activities that provide equity to qualified individuals with disabilities.

The public charter school will provide reasonable accommodations for the known disabilities of all applicants and current employees in all employment application procedures; hiring, advancement or discharge; employee compensation; job training; other terms, conditions and privileges of employment upon request and advance notice.

A reasonable accommodation must not present an undue hardship for the public charter school, be unduly costly, extensive or disruptive; nor present a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others in the workplace.

Public charter school services, programs and activities will be accessible and usable by qualified individuals with disabilities, consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA. Accessibility may be achieved through nonstructural as well as structural methods.

In order to achieve equal access, the public charter school will make available appropriate auxiliary aids and services that promote effective communications. Primary consideration will be given to the request of individuals with disabilities in the selection of appropriate aids and services. Final determination will be made by the public charter school board. Auxiliary aids and services determinations will be based on availability, effectiveness and financial or administrative burden to the public charter school.

The public charter school board directs the administrator to develop and implement an appropriate plan that provides for public charter school compliance with the ADA, including the appointment of an ADA compliance officer and the establishment of a process for the investigation and prompt and equitable resolution of any complaint regarding noncompliance.

Retaliation is prohibited against anyone who files a complaint of discrimination, participates in an Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program proceeding or otherwise opposes discrimination federal or state laws.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 503, 791, 793-794 (2012).  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006).  
Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Echazabal, 536 U.S. 73 (2002).  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

# The Cottonwood School

Code: ACA-AR

Revised/Reviewed:

## ADA Grievance Procedure

The executive director is responsible for coordinating the public charter school's efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA). The executive director shall be a neutral party having had no involvement in the complaint presented.

- Step 1 Any complaint shall be presented in writing to the executive director within 180 days from date of alleged discrimination. It must include the following:
- a. The name and address of the individual or the representative filing the complaint;
  - b. The description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the public charter school of the nature and date of the alleged violation;
  - c. A signature by the complainant or by someone authorized to do so on their behalf;
  - d. The identification (by name, if possible) of the alleged victims of the discrimination for any complaint filed on behalf of classes or third parties.
- Step 2 The executive director shall thoroughly investigate the complaint, notify the person who has been accused of discriminating, permit a response to the allegation and arrange a meeting to discuss the complaint with all concerned parties within 10 working days after receipt of the written complaint, if deemed necessary. The executive director shall give a written answer to the complainant within 15 working days after receipt of the written complaint.
- Step 3 If the complainant is not satisfied with the answer, an appeal to the public charter school board may be filed within 10 working days after receipt of the Step 2 answer. The Board shall, within 20 working days, conduct a hearing at which the complainant shall be given an opportunity to present the complaint. The Board shall give a written answer to the complainant within 10 working days following completion of the hearing.
- Step 4 If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the public charter school board, a complaint may be filed with the Coordination and Review Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (student complaints) or the U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (employment complaints).

Individuals may initiate complaint procedures and/or civil actions with or without first complying with local complaint procedures.

# The Cottonwood School

Code: **ACB**  
Adopted: 01/13/2021

*{Replaces current ACB with updated statutory changes.}*

## Every Student Belongs

The Cottonwood School believes that the full education of a student depends and relies upon a diverse, equitable, and inclusive school environment. We value different lived experiences and integrate the voices of our school-community members, while also inviting insight from our larger community. We apply a culturally responsive approach to our teaching and our decision-making. We incorporate the histories, perspectives, and experiences of different groups of people who are traditionally left out of school curricula.

All students are entitled to a high quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

All employees are entitled to work in an environment that is free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

All visitors are entitled to participate in a school or educational environment that is free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

“Bias incident” means a person’s hostile expression of animus toward another person, relating to the other person’s perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin, of which criminal investigation or prosecution is impossible or inappropriate. Bias incidents may include derogatory language or behavior.

“Symbol of hate” means nooses<sup>1</sup>, symbols of neo-Nazi ideology or the battle flag of the Confederacy.

The Cottonwood School prohibits the use or display of any symbols of hate on school property<sup>2</sup> or in an education program<sup>3</sup> except where used in teaching curriculum that is aligned with state standards of education for public schools.

In responding to the use of any symbols of hate or bias incidents, the public charter school will use non-disciplinary remedial action whenever appropriate.

The Cottonwood School prohibits retaliation against an individual because that individual has in good faith reported information that the individual believes is evidence of a violation of a state or federal law, rule or regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The display of a noose on public property with the intent to intimidate may be a Class A Misdemeanor under Senate Bill 398 (2021).

<sup>2</sup> “School property” means any property under the control of the public charter school.

<sup>3</sup> “Education program” includes any program, service, school or activity sponsored by the public charter school.



Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the lawful use of public charter school facilities pursuant to a lease or license.

The public charter school will use administrative regulation ACB-AR - Bias Incident Complaint Procedure to process reports or complaints of bias incidents.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 174.100](#)

[ORS 339.347](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)

[ORS 659.852](#)

[OAR 581-002-0005](#)

[OAR 581-022-2312](#)

[OAR 581-022-2370](#)

*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

*Dariano v. Morgan Hill Unified Sch. Dist.*, 767 F.3d 764 (9th Cir. 2014).

*State v. Robertson*, 293 Or. 402 (1982).

# The Cottonwood School

Code: **ACB-AR**  
Adopted:

## Bias Incident Complaint Procedure

The terms “bias incident” and “symbols of hate” are defined in policy ACB. Persons impacted by a bias incident or display of a symbol of hate shall be defined broadly to include persons directly targeted by an act, as well as the community of students as a whole who are likely to be impacted by the act.<sup>1</sup>

Step 1: When a staff member learns of a potential bias incident or display of a symbol of hate, the staff member will prioritize the safety and well-being of all persons impacted and without unreasonable delay report the incident to the executive director.

Step 2: The executive director shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint, reduce the complaint to writing, and investigate any complaint of a bias incident. The executive director will recognize the experience of all persons impacted, acknowledge the impact, commit to taking immediate action, and commit to preventing further harm against those persons impacted from taking place. Educational components and redirection procedures, if any, will:

- Address the history and impact of bias and hate;
- Advance the safety and healing of those impacted by bias and hate;
- Promote accountability and transformation for people who cause harm; and
- Promote transformation of the conditions that perpetuated the harm.

The executive director must consider whether the behavior implicates other Cottonwood policies or civil rights laws, and if so, respond accordingly<sup>2</sup>.

The executive director will make a decision within 10 days of receiving the complaint.

All persons impacted by the act will be provided with information<sup>3</sup> relating to the investigation and the outcome of the investigation. At a minimum, the information provided must include:

- Notice that an investigation has been initiated;
- Notice when an investigation has been completed;
- The findings of the investigation and the final determination based on those findings;
- Actions taken to remedy a person’s behavior and prevent reoccurrence; and
- When applicable, the legal citation of any law prohibiting disclosure of any information described above, and an explanation of how that law applies to the current situation.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “complainant” in this administrative regulation includes persons filing formal complaints and persons reporting bias incidents, regardless of whether the complainant is a victim. Similarly, the term “complaint” includes any report, information or complaint.

<sup>2</sup> The nature of the behavior or act must determine the process used to respond; what rights and protections are available to the person(s) impacted by the behavior or act; and an individual’s right to appeal to the Oregon Department of Education or the U.S. Department of Education.

<sup>3</sup> For additional information regarding required notices, see OAR 581-022-2312(4)(e)(E).

Step 3: If the complainant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision of the executive director, a written appeal may be filed with the Board within five school days of receipt of the executive director's response to Step 2. The Board may decide to hear or deny the request for appeal at the next Board meeting. The Board may use an executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. If the Board decides to hear the appeal, the Board may meet with the concerned parties and their representative at a Board meeting. The Board's decision will be final and will address each allegation in the complaint and contain reasons for the Board's decision. A copy of the Board's final decision shall be sent to the complainant in writing within 10 days of this meeting.

The Board will ensure that the requirements in Steps 1 and 2 (redirection procedures, notice, etc.) are continued to be met through Step 3, as appropriate.

Complaints can be filed with or communicated directly to the executive director, in which case Step 1 will be skipped. Complaints against the executive director can be directed to the Board Chair and will begin at Step 3. Complaints against the Board Chair can be directed to the Board and will begin at Step 3. Complaints against a Board member(s) can be directed to the Board and will begin at Step 3. If complaints begin later than Step 1, the individuals reviewing the complaint will ensure that all requirements are met.

The complainant, if a person who resides in the district, a parent or guardian of a student who attends the public charter school, or a student, is not satisfied after exhausting complaint procedures, the public charter school fails to render a written decision within 30 days of submission of the complaint at any step or fails to resolve the complaint within 90 days of the initial filing of the complaint, may appeal<sup>4</sup> Cottonwood's final decision to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023.

Complaints may also be filed directly with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.<sup>5</sup>

The Cottonwood School administration will develop and implement instructional materials to ensure that all school employees, staff and students are made aware of the policy, this administrative regulation and related practices. The materials will include reporting procedures, educational processes, and possible consequences.

When necessary, timelines may be adjusted by the public charter school by communicating to all parties in writing. This communication must include a new timeline and an explanation of why the timeline must be adjusted.

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<sup>4</sup> An appeal must meet the criteria found in OAR 581-002-0005(1)(a).

<sup>5</sup> Complaints must meet criteria as established by law. For more information, visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBA  
Adopted:

## Board Powers and Duties

The by-laws delegate to the public charter school board responsibility for the conduct and governance of programs and services in the public charter school. The general powers granted to the Board are:

### 1. Legislative or Rule-Making Authority

In regular or special public meetings, after open discussion and after members' votes are recorded, the public charter school board will establish rules or policy to govern the conduct of its members and the proceedings of the Board.

The Board shall establish policies for governing the programs and services of the public charter school consistent with State Board of Education rules and with local, state and federal laws, as applicable.

The Board is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping informed about the needs and wishes of the public and for keeping local community patrons informed about the public charter school.

### 2. Judicial Authority

As provided by law, policy or contract, the public charter school board acts as a fact-finding body or a court of appeal for staff members, students and the public when issues involve Board policies or agreements and their implementation, and when the Board must determine the rights, duties or obligations of those who address the Board.

### 3. Executive/Administrative Authority

The public charter school board will appoint an administrator delegated to establish administrative regulations to implement Board policy and goals. The Board will evaluate the administrator's performance.

The public charter school board may establish academic and financial goals for the public charter school and evaluate the administrator's implementation of those goals.

The public charter school board will oversee the public charter school's financial affairs by authorizing, appropriating and adopting budgets as allowed by law, to provide for program operation and maintenance or acquisition of public charter school property.

The Board will authorize the administrator to approve payment on all contracts and business transactions of the public charter school in accordance with public charter school board policies and charter agreement on purchasing and budget requirements. The public charter school board will provide for an annual audit of the public charter school's assets.

The public charter school board will establish salaries and salary schedules, other terms and conditions of employment, and personnel policies for public charter school employees.

The public charter school board will establish the days of the year and the hours of the day when school will be in session.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.630](#)

[ORS 243.656](#)

[ORS Chapters 279A, 279B](#) and [279C](#)

[ORS 294.305](#) to -294.565

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

[ORS Chapter 339](#)

[ORS 339.250](#)

[ORS 339.315](#) to -339.327

[ORS 339.351](#) to -339.364

[ORS 339.370](#) to -339.400

[ORS 339.866](#) to -339.873

[ORS 339.883](#) to -339.885

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBA

Adopted:

## Individual Board Member's Authority and Responsibilities

An individual public charter school board member exercises the authority and responsibility of their position when the public charter school board is in legal session only.

A public charter school board member has the authority to act in the name of the Board when authorized by a specific Board motion. The affirmative vote of the majority of the Board {members present<sup>1</sup>} is required to transact any business. ~~When authorized to act as the public charter school's designated representative in collective bargaining, a Board member may make and accept proposals in bargaining subject to subsequent approval by the Board.~~

When expressing personal opinions in public, the Board member should clearly identify the opinions as their own.

Members will be knowledgeable of information requested through Board action, supplied by the executive director, gained through attendance at public charter school activities and through professional Board activities.

Members of the Board will adhere to the following in carrying out the responsibilities of membership:

### 1. Requests for Information

Any individual Board member who desires a copy of an existing written report or survey prepared by the administrative staff will make such a request to the executive director. A copy of the material may be made available to each member of the Board. Requests for the generation of reports or information, which requires additional expense to the school, must be submitted to the Board for consideration.

### 2. Requests for Legal Opinions

Requests for a legal {advice or} opinions by a Board member- {that will incur a cost for the public charter school}, must be approved by a majority vote of the Board before the request is made to legal counsel. ~~The Board chair is authorized to obtain legal advice or opinions if [advantageous] to do so prior to the next meeting (e.g., advice regarding an executive session or a decision to invite public charter legal counsel) without a need for Board approval.~~ Legal counsel is responsible to the public charter school board.

### 3. Action on Complaints or Requests Made to Board Members

When Board members receive complaints or requests for action from staff, students or members of the public, the Board members will direct the staff, students and members of the public to the

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<sup>1</sup> The public charter school should consult their bylaws to edit this content.

appropriate complaint policy {Board policy KL - Public Complaints}. Such information will be conveyed to the executive director.

4. Board Member's Relationship to Administration

Individual Board members will be informed about the school's educational program, may visit the school or other school facilities to gain information, and may request information from the executive director. No individual Board member may direct the administration to action without Board authorization. Board members will not intervene in the administration of the school.

5. Contracts or Agreements

All contracts of the public charter school must be approved by the Board, or as delegated to the executive director, before an order can be drawn for payment. If a contract is made without authority of the Board, the individual making such contract shall be personally liable.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBF

## Board Member Standards of Conduct

Individual Board members and the Board as a public entity, must comply with the ethics laws for public officials.

Board members will treat other Board members, the administration, staff and the public with dignity and courtesy and will provide an opportunity for all parties to be heard with due respect for their opinions.

Board members will recognize the executive director as the chief executive officer to whom the Board has delegated administrative authority to establish regulations and oversee the implementation of Board policy.

When a Board member expresses personal opinions in public, the Board member should clearly identify the opinions as personal.

A Board member will respect the privacy rights of individuals when dealing with confidential information gained through association with the public charter school.

A Board member will keep information and documents discussed in an executive session, confidential.

A Board member will not post confidential information or documents about students, staff or school business online, including but not limited to, on social media.

Board members will treat fellow other Board members, staff, students and the public with respect while posting online or to social media and will adhere to Oregon Public Meetings Laws, including when communicating with other Board members via websites or other electronic means.

A Board member is a mandatory reporter of child abuse. A Board member having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the Board member comes in contact with has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the Board member comes in contact with has abused a child shall immediately make a report to the local Department of Human Services (DHS)<sup>1</sup> or to a law enforcement within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of contact.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.610 - 192.710](#)  
[ORS Chapter 244](#)  
[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

[ORS 419B.005](#)  
[ORS 419B.010](#)  
[ORS 419B.015](#)

[Senate Bill 415 \(2019\)](#)

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<sup>1</sup> How to report abuse or neglect: [Oregon DHS](#). Call 855-503-SAFE (7233)



# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBFA  
Adopted:

## Board Member Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

No Board member will use their official position or office to obtain personal financial benefit or to avoid financial detriment for themselves, relatives or household members, or for any business with which the Board member, a household member or a relative is associated.

This prohibition does not apply to any part of an official compensation package, honorarium allowed by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 244.042, reimbursement of expenses, or unsolicited awards of professional achievement. Further, this prohibition does not apply to gifts from one without a legislative or administrative interest. Nor does it apply if the gift is under the annual \$50 gift limit from one who has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the Board member. Public charter school-provided meals at board meetings are acceptable under the reimbursement of expenses exception.

### I. Conflicts of Interest

“Business” means any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, enterprise, association, franchise, firm, organization, self-employed individual or any legal entity operated for economic gain. This definition excludes any income-producing tax exempt 501(c) not-for-profit corporation with which a public official or a relative of the public official is associated only as a member or board director or in a nonremunerative capacity.

“Business with which a Board member or relative is associated” means any private business or closely held corporation of which a Board member or relative is a director, officer, owner, employee or agent or any private business or closely held corporation in which a Board member or relative owns or has owned stock, another form of equity interest, stock options or debt instruments worth \$1,000 or more at any point in the preceding year; any publicly held corporation in which a Board member or relative owns or has owned \$100,000 or more in stock or another form of equity interest, stock options or debt instruments at any point in the preceding calendar year; or any publicly held corporation of which a Board member or relative is a director or officer.

“Relative” means: the Board member’s spouse<sup>1</sup>, parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the Board member; or the parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the spouse of the Board member. Relative also includes any individual for whom the Board member has a legal support obligation, whose employment provides benefits<sup>2</sup> to the Board member, or who receives any benefit from the Board member’s public position.

“Member of the household” means any person who resides with the public official.

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<sup>1</sup> The term spouse includes domestic partner.

<sup>2</sup> Examples of benefits may include, but not be limited to, elements of an official compensation package including benefits such as insurance, tuition or retirement allotments.

No Board member will solicit or receive, either directly or indirectly, any pledge or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the Board member's vote, official action or judgment would be thereby influenced.

No Board member will attempt to use or use for personal gain any confidential information gained through their official position or association with the public charter school. A Board member will respect individuals' privacy rights when dealing with confidential information gained through association with the public charter school.

If a Board member participates in the authorization of a public contract, the Board member may not have a direct beneficial financial interest in that public contract for two years after the date the contract was authorized.

Individual Board members and the Board as a public entity are bound by the ethics laws for public officials as stated in Oregon law.

### **Potential Conflict of Interest**

"Potential conflict of interest" means any action or any decision or recommendation by a Board member that could result in a financial benefit or detriment for self or relatives or for a business with which the Board member or relatives are associated, unless otherwise provided by law.

A Board member must publicly declare a potential conflict of interest. A Board member may, after declaring their potential conflict of interest, either vote or abstain on the issue. Abstaining from a vote does not meet the legal requirement of publicly stating a potential conflict.

### **Actual Conflict of Interest**

"Actual conflict of interest" means any action or any decision or recommendation taken by a Board member that would result in a financial benefit or detriment to self or relatives or for any business with which the Board member or relatives are associated, unless otherwise provided by law.

A Board member must publicly declare an actual conflict of interest. The Board member may not vote lawfully if an actual conflict of interest exists unless a vote is needed to meet a minimum requirement of votes to take official action. Such a vote does not allow the Board member to participate in any discussion or debate on the issue out of which an actual conflict arises.

### **Class Exception**

It will not be a conflict of interest if the Board member's action would affect to the same degree a class consisting of all inhabitants of the state, or a smaller class consisting of an industry, occupation or other group including one of which or in which the person, or the person's relative or business with which the person or the person's relative is associated, is a member or is engaged. For example, if a Board member's spouse is a member of the collective bargaining unit, the Board member may vote to approve the contract, as it will affect all members of that class to the same degree. However, if the collective bargaining unit is very small, the class exception may not apply. Similarly, if the contract contains special provisions that might apply only to particular persons, then the class exception may not apply. For example, if a Board member's spouse is the only one in the bargaining unit that has a doctorate and there is a pay differential

for employees with doctorates in the collective bargaining agreement, the Board member should not vote on the contract.

## **II. Gifts**

Board members are public officials and therefore will not solicit or accept a gift or gifts with an aggregate value in excess of \$50 from any single source in a calendar year that has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the Board member. All gift related provisions apply to the Board member, their relatives, and members of their household. The \$50 gift limit applies separately to the Board member, and to the Board member's relatives or members of household, meaning that the Board member, each member of their household and relative can accept up to \$50 each from the same source/gift giver. "Gift" means something of economic value given to a Board member without valuable consideration of equivalent value, which is not extended to others who are not public officials on the same terms and conditions.

"Relative" means: the spouse<sup>3</sup>, parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the Board member; or the parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the spouse of the Board member. Relative also includes any individual for whom the Board member has a legal support obligation, whose employment provides benefits<sup>4</sup> to the Board member, or who receives any benefit from the Board member's public employment.

"Member of the household" means any person who resides with the Board member.

### **Determining the Source of Gifts**

Board members should not accept gifts in any amount without obtaining information from the gift giver as to who is the source of the gift. It is the Board member's personal responsibility to ensure that no single source provides gifts exceeding an aggregate value of \$50 in a calendar year, if the source has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the Board member. If the giver does not have a legislative/administrative interest, the ethics rules on gifts do not apply and the Board member need not keep track of it, although they are advised to do so anyway in case of a later dispute.

### **Determining Legislative and Administrative Interest**

A legislative or administrative interest means an economic interest distinct from that of the general public, in any action subject to the decision or vote of a person acting in the capacity of a Board member. For example, everyone within a county has a general interest in the fire department, but the person who sells the uniforms to the fire department has a legislative/administrative interest in the fire department that is distinct from the general public.

### **Determining the Value of Gifts**

The fair market value of the merchandise, goods, or services received will be used to determine benefit or value.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 1

“Fair market value” is the dollar amount goods or services would bring if offered for sale by a person who desired, but was not obligated, to sell and purchased by one who is willing, but not obligated, to buy. Any portion of the price that was donated to charity, however, does not count toward the fair market value of the gift if the Board member does not claim the charitable contribution on personal tax returns. Below are acceptable ways to calculate the fair market value of a gift:

1. In calculating the per person cost at receptions or meals the payor of the Board member’s admission or meal will include all costs other than any amount donated to a charity.

For example, a person with a legislative or administrative interest buys a table for a charitable dinner at \$100 per person. If the cost of the meal was \$25 and the amount donated to charity was \$75, the benefit conferred on the Board member is \$25. This example requires that the Board member does not claim the charitable contribution on personal tax returns.

2. For receptions and meals with multiple attendees, but with no price established to attend, the source of the Board member’s meal or reception will use reasonable methods to determine the per person value or benefit conferred. The following examples are deemed reasonable methods of calculating value or benefit conferred:
  - a. The source divides the amount spent on food, beverage and other costs (other than charitable contributions) by the number of persons whom the payor reasonably expects to attend the reception or dinner;
  - b. The source divides the amount spent on food, beverage and other costs (other than charitable contributions) by the number of persons who actually attend the reception or dinner; or
  - c. The source calculates the actual amount spent on the Board member.
3. Upon request by the Board member, the source will give notice of the value of the merchandise, goods, or services received.
4. Attendance at receptions where the food or beverage is provided as an incidental part of the reception is permitted without regard to the fair market value of the food and beverage provided.

### **Value of Unsolicited Tokens or Awards: Resale value**

Board members may accept unsolicited tokens or awards that are engraved or are otherwise personalized items. Such items are deemed to have a resale value under \$25 (even if the personalized item cost the source more than \$50), unless the personalized item is made from gold or some other valuable material that would have value over \$25 as a raw material.

### **Entertainment**

Board members may not solicit or accept any gifts of entertainment over \$50 in value from any single source in a calendar year that has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the Board member unless:

1. The entertainment is incidental to the main purpose of another event (i.e., a band playing at a reception). Entertainment that involves personal participation is not incidental to another event (such as a golf tournament at a conference); or
2. The Board member is acting in their official capacity for a ceremonial purpose.

Entertainment is ceremonial when a Board member appears at an entertainment event for a “ceremonial purpose” at the invitation of the source of the entertainment who requests the presence of the Board member at a special occasion associated with the entertainment. Examples of an appearance by a Board member at an entertainment event for a ceremonial purpose include throwing the first pitch at a baseball game, appearing in a parade and ribbon cutting for an opening ceremony.

## Exceptions

The following are exceptions to the ethics rules on gifts:

1. Campaign contributions are not considered gifts under the ethics rules;
2. Gifts from “relatives” and “members of the household” to the Board member are permitted in an unlimited amount; they are not considered gifts under the ethics rules;
3. Informational or program material, publications, or subscriptions related to the recipient’s performance of official duties;
4. Contributions made to a legal expense trust fund if certain requirements are met;
5. Food, lodging, and travel generally count toward the \$50 aggregate amount per year from a single source with a legislative/administrative interest, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Organized Planned Events. Board members are permitted to accept payment for travel conducted in the Board member’s official capacity, for certain limited purposes:
    - (1) Reasonable expenses (i.e., food, lodging, travel, fees) for attendance at a convention, fact-finding mission or trip, or other meeting do not count toward the \$50 aggregate amount IF:
      - (a) The Board member is scheduled to deliver a speech, make a presentation, participate on a panel, or represent the public charter school; AND
      - (i) The giver is a unit of a:
        - 1) Federal, state, or local government;
        - 2) An Oregon or federally recognized Native American Tribe; OR
        - 3) Nonprofit corporation.
      - (b) The Board member is representing the public charter school:
        - (i) On an officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission; OR
        - (ii) Officially designated negotiations or economic development activities *where receipt of the expenses is approved in advance by the Board.*
    - (2) The purpose of this exception is to allow Board members to attend organized, planned events and engage with the members of organizations by speaking or answering questions, participating in panel discussions or otherwise formally discussing matters in their official capacity. This exception to the gift definition does not authorize private meals where the participants engage in discussion.

6. Food or beverage, consumed at a reception, meal, or meeting IF held by an organization and IF the Board member is representing the public charter school. Again, this exception does not authorize private meals where the participants engage in discussion.

“Reception” means a social gathering. Receptions are often held for the purpose of extending a ceremonial or formal welcome and may include private or public meetings during which guests are honored or welcomed. Food and beverages are often provided, but not as a plated, sit-down meal;

7. Food or beverage consumed by Board member acting in an official capacity in the course of financial transactions between the public body and another entity described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(I)(i);
8. Waiver or discount of registration expenses or materials provided to Board member at a continuing education event that the Board member may attend to satisfy a professional licensing requirement;
9. A gift received by the Board member as part of the usual or customary practice of the Board member’s private business, employment or position as a volunteer that bears no relationship to the Board member’s holding of public office.

### **Honoraria**

A Board member may not solicit or receive, whether directly or indirectly, honoraria for the Board member or any relative or member of the household of the Board member if the honoraria are solicited or received in connection with the official duties of the Board member.

The honoraria rules do not prohibit the solicitation or receipt of an honorarium or a certificate, plaque, commemorative token, or other item with a value of \$50 or less; or the solicitation or receipt of an honorarium for services performed in relation to the private profession, occupation, avocation, or expertise of the Board member or candidate.

END OF POLICY

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#### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 244.010](#) to -244.400

[OAR 199-005-0001](#) to -199-010-0150

38 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 1995 (1978)

OR. ETHICS COMM’N, OR. GOV’T ETHICS LAW, A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBFB  
Adopted:

## Board Member Ethics and Nepotism

In order to avoid both potential and actual conflicts of interests, Board members will abide by the following rules when a Board member's relative or member of the household is seeking and/or holds a position with the public charter school:

1. A Board member may not appoint, employ, promote, discharge, fire, or demote or advocate for such an employment decision for a relative or member of the household, unless the Board member complies with the conflict of interest requirements of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 244.

This policy does not apply to decisions regarding unpaid volunteer positions unless it is a Board member position or another Board-related unpaid volunteer position (i.e. a Board committee position).

2. A Board member may not participate as a public official in any interview, discussion, or debate regarding the appointment, employment, promotion, discharge, firing, or demotion of a relative or member of the household. A Board member may still serve as a reference or provide a recommendation.

For the purposes of this policy:

“Member of the household” means any person who resides with the Board member.

“Relative” means: the spouse<sup>1</sup>, parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the Board member; or the parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling or child-in-law of the spouse of the Board member. Relative also includes any individual for whom the Board member has a legal support obligation, whose employment provides benefits<sup>2</sup> to the Board member, or who receives any benefit from the Board member's public employment.

### Class Exception

It will not be a conflict of interest if the Board member's action would affect to the same degree a class including the Board member's relative or household member. For example, if a Board member's spouse is a member of the collective bargaining unit, the Board member may vote to approve the contract, as it will affect all members of that class to the same degree. However, if the collective bargaining unit is very small, the class exception may not apply. Similarly, if the contract contains special provisions that might apply only to particular persons, then the class exception may not apply. For example, if a Board

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<sup>1</sup> The term spouse includes domestic partner.

<sup>2</sup> Examples of benefits may include, but not be limited to, elements of an official compensation package including benefits such as insurance, tuition or retirement allotments.

member's spouse is the only one in the bargaining unit that has a doctorate and there is a pay differential for employees with doctorates in the collective bargaining agreement, the Board member should not vote on the contract.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 244.010 to -244.400](#)

[ORS 659A.309](#)

[OAR 199-005-0001 to -199-010-0150](#)

OR. ETHICS COMM'N, OR. GOV'T ETHICS LAW, A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.



# The Cottonwood School

Code: BBFC  
Adopted:

## Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

A Board member is a mandatory reporter of child abuse<sup>1</sup>. A Board member having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the Board member comes in contact with has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the Board member comes in contact with has abused a child shall immediately notify the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) or local law enforcement pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 419B.015.

The Board member making a report of child abuse, as required by ORS 419B.010, shall make a report through the centralized child abuse reporting system established by DHS<sup>2</sup> or to a law enforcement agency within the county where the Board member making the report is located at the time of the contact.

The report must contain, if known: the names and addresses of the child and the parents of the child or other persons responsible for the care of the child; the child's age; the nature and extent of the abuse, including any evidence of previous abuse; the explanation given for the abuse; and any other information that the Board member making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse and the identity of the perpetrator.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 338.115](#)  
[ORS 419B.005](#)

[ORS 419B.010](#)  
[ORS 419B.015](#)

[Senate Bill 415 \(2019\)](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Includes the neglect of a child; abuse is defined in ORS 419B.005.

<sup>2</sup> [How to report abuse or neglect: [Oregon DHS](#). Call 855-503-SAFE (7233)]

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BD/BDA  
Adopted:

## Board Meetings

The Board has the authority to act only when a quorum is present at a duly called regular, special or emergency meeting. “Meeting” means the convening<sup>1</sup> of a quorum of the Board as the public charter school’s governing body to make a decision<sup>2</sup> or to deliberate<sup>3</sup> toward a decision on any matter. This includes meeting for the purpose of gathering information to serve as the basis for a subsequent decision or recommendation by the Board, i.e. a work session. “Meeting” does not include any on-site inspection of any project or program the attendance of members of the Board at any national, regional or state association to which the Board or its members belong.

The affirmative vote of a majority of those present is required to transact any business.

All regular, special and emergency meetings of the Board will be open to the public except as provided by law. Access to and the ability to attend all meetings (excluding executive sessions) by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means will be made available when reasonably possible. All meetings will be conducted in compliance with state and federal statutes. For information how to give or submit public comment it is outlined in Board policy BDDH - Public Comment at Board Meetings<sup>4</sup> and/or posted on the school’s website.

All Board meetings, including Board retreats and work sessions, will be held within the geographic boundaries over which the Board has jurisdiction except as allowed by law<sup>5</sup>. The Board may attend training sessions outside these boundaries but cannot deliberate or discuss public charter school business.

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<sup>1</sup> “Convening” means: (a) Gathering in a physical location; (b) Using electronic, video or telephonic technology to be able to communicate contemporaneously among participants; (c) Using serial electronic written communications among participants; or (d) Using an intermediary to communicate among participants.

<sup>2</sup> “Decision” means any determination, action, vote or final disposition upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, ordinance or measure on which a vote of a governing body is required, at any meeting at which a quorum is present.

<sup>3</sup> “Deliberation” means discussion or communication that is part of a decision-making process.

<sup>4</sup> When telephone or other electronic means of communication is used during a meeting open to the public, the Board shall make at least one place available to the public where, or at least one electronic means by which, the public can listen during the meeting. At all meetings of the Board open to the public, the public will be provided an opportunity, to the extent reasonably possible, to access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means. If in-person oral testimony (or public comment) is allowed, the public will be provided, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to submit oral testimony during the meeting, at the designated portion of the agenda, by telephone, video or other electronic or other means. If in-person written testimony is allowed, the public will be provided, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to submit written testimony including by email or other electronic means, so that the Board is able to consider the submitted testimony in a timely manner.

<sup>5</sup> ORS 192.630(4). Meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be held within the geographic boundaries over which the public body has jurisdiction, or at the administrative headquarters of the public body or at the other nearest practical location. Training sessions may be held outside the jurisdiction as long as no deliberations toward a decision are involved.

No meeting will be held at any place where discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or national origin is practiced.

The Board will give public notice reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, including the news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for all Board meetings and of the principal subjects to be considered. The Board may consider additional subjects at a meeting, even if they were not included in the notice.

If requested to do so at least 48 hours before a meeting held in public, the Board shall make a good faith effort to provide an interpreter for hearing-impaired persons. If the meeting is being held upon less than 48 hours' notice and a request for an interpreter is made, the Board shall make a reasonable effort to have an interpreter present. Other appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request and appropriate advance notice.

If requested to do so at least 72 hours before a meeting held in public, the Board will make a reasonable effort to provide translation services.

All meetings held in public shall comply with the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act.

The possession of dangerous or deadly weapons and firearms, as defined in law and Board policy, is prohibited on public charter school property.

#### 1. Regular, Special and Emergency Meetings

Generally, a regular Board meeting will be held each month. The regular meeting schedule will be established at the annual organizational meeting and may be changed by the Board with proper notice. The purpose of each regular monthly meeting will be to conduct the regular Board business.

No later than the next regular meeting following July 1, the Board will hold the annual organizational meeting to elect Board officers for the coming year and to establish the year's schedule of Board meetings.

Special meetings can be convened by the Board chair, upon request of three Board members or by common consent of the Board at any time to discuss any topic. A special meeting may be scheduled if less than a quorum is present at a meeting, additional business still needs to be conducted at the ending time of the meeting, conducting business prior to the next regular meeting would be advantageous to the public charter school or other reasons. At least 24 hours' notice must be provided to all Board members, the news media which have requested notice, and the general public for any special meeting.

Emergency meetings can be called by the Board in the case of an actual emergency upon appropriate notice under the circumstances. The minutes of the emergency meeting must describe the emergency. Only topics necessitated by the emergency may be discussed or acted upon at the emergency meeting.

#### 2. Communications Outside of Board Meetings

Communications, to, by and among a quorum of Board members outside of a legally called Board meeting, in their capacity as Board members, shall not be used for the purpose of discussing public charter school business. This includes electronic, video or telephonic communications, serial

electronic communications among participants and using an intermediary to communicate among participants. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to messages not involving deliberation, debate, decision-making or gathering of information on which to deliberate.

Communications outside of a Board meeting may contain:

- a. Communications to, between or among members of a governing body that are:
  - (1) Purely factual or educational in nature and that convey no deliberation or decision on any matter that might reasonably come before the Board (including agendas and information concerning agenda items);
  - (2) Not related to any matter that, at any time, could reasonably be foreseen to come before the Board for deliberation and decision; or
  - (3) Nonsubstantive in nature, such as communication relating to scheduling, leaves of absence and other similar matters; or
- b. Individual responses to questions posed by community members, subject to other limitations in Board policy.

E-mails sent to other Board members may have the following notice:

*Important: Please do not reply or forward this communication if this communication constitutes a decision or deliberation toward a decision between and among a quorum of a governing body which could be considered a public meeting. Electronic communications on public charter school business are governed by public meetings law.*

### 3. Private or Social Meetings

Private or social meetings of a quorum of the Board for the purpose of making a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter are prohibited by public meetings law.

### 4. Work Sessions

The Board may use regular or special meetings for the purpose of conducting work sessions to provide its members with opportunities for planning and thoughtful discussion. Work sessions will be conducted in accordance with state law on public meetings, including notice and minutes. The Board may make official decisions during a work session.

### 5. Executive Sessions

Executive sessions may be held as an agenda item during regular, special or emergency meetings for a reason permitted by law. (See Board policy BDC - Executive Sessions)

Complaints regarding public meetings laws can be filed with the Board in accordance with Board Policy KL – Public Complaints. The Board will respond and provide a copy of the complaint and response to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission within 21 days in accordance with state law.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See House Bill 2805 (2023) Section 5(2) for requirements of the response.

## **Mandatory Training**

Every member of the Board shall attend or view a training on public meetings law prepared or approved by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) at least once during the Board member's term of office and shall verify attendance in accordance with OGEC procedures.

END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS Chapter 192](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

[ORS 433.835 - 433.875](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

OR. ATTY. GEN. Public Records and Meetings Manual.

[House Bill 2805](#) (2023).

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BDC  
Adopted:

## Executive Sessions

The Board may meet in executive session to discuss subjects allowed by statute but may not take final action except for the expulsion of a student and matters pertaining to or examination of the confidential records of the student.

An executive session may be included as an agenda item of an existing meeting in accordance with Board policy BDDC, Board Meeting Agenda or held as its own meeting. Proper notice is required.

If open session is held prior to the executive session, the presiding officer will announce the executive session by identifying the authorization under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660 or ORS 332.061 for holding such session and by noting the subject of the executive session.

The Board may hold an executive session:

1. To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.<sup>1</sup> (ORS 192.660(2)(a))
2. To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer<sup>2</sup>, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing. (ORS 192.660(2)(b))
3. To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. (ORS 192.660(2)(d))
4. To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. (ORS 192.660(2)(e))
5. To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. (ORS 192.660(2)(f))
6. To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. (ORS 192.660(2)(h))

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<sup>1</sup> This provision does not apply to the filling of a vacancy in elective office or on any public committee, commission or other advisory group; or for the consideration of general employment policies. Prior to holding an executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(a), the Board must ensure

- a. The vacancy has been advertised;
- b. Regular hiring procedures have been adopted;
- c. If hiring an officer, the public has had the opportunity to comment on the employment of the officer; and
- d. If hiring a chief executive officer, the Board has adopted hiring standards, criteria and policy directives in meetings open to the public in which the public has had the opportunity to comment on the standards, criteria and policy directives.

<sup>2</sup> To determine whether the individual involved is considered a public officer, consult with legal counsel.

7. To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing. (ORS 192.660(2)(i))
8. To consider matters relating to school safety or a plan that responds to safety threats made toward a school. (ORS 192.660(k))
9. To consider matters relating to the safety of the governing body and of public body staff and volunteers and the security of public body facilities and meeting spaces. (ORS 192.660(2)(o))
10. To consider matters relating to cyber security infrastructure and responses to cyber security threats. (ORS 192.660(2)(p))
11. To review the expulsion of a minor student from a public elementary or secondary school. (ORS 332.061(1)(a))
12. To discuss matters pertaining to or examination of the confidential records of a student. (ORS 332.061(1)(b))

Members of the press may attend executive sessions except those matters pertaining to:

1. Deliberations with persons designated by the Board to carry on labor negotiations;
2. Hearings on the expulsion of a minor student or examination of the confidential records of a student; and
3. Current litigation or litigation likely to be filed if the member of the news media is a party to the litigation or is an employee, agent or contractor of a news media organization that is a party to the litigation.

If an executive session is held pursuant to ORS 332.061, the following shall not be made public: the name of the minor student; the issue, including the student's confidential records; the discussion; and each Board member's vote on the issue.

Minutes shall be kept for all executive sessions.

Content discussed in executive sessions is confidential except as provided by law. Board members and the media are instructed not to disclose information obtained in executive session except when specifically authorized to do so or as required by law.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.660](#)

[ORS 332.061](#)

[ORS 338.115](#)

OR. ATTY. GEN. Public Records and Meetings Manual.

Oregon Government Ethics Commission, [Staff Advisory Opinion](#) No. 22-106S

[House Bill 2806](#) (2023)

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BDD  
Adopted:

## Board Meeting Procedures

### 1. Quorum

A quorum will consist of the majority of the Board members.

### 2. Vote Needed for Exercise of Powers

The affirmative vote of a majority of Board members present will be necessary for exercising any of the Board's powers.

### 3. Board Member Voting

Each member's vote on all motions will be recorded in the minutes.

### 4. Abstaining from Vote

If a Board member chooses to abstain from voting, and the abstention is due to a conflict of interest, the Board members will state the reason for the abstention and such abstention will be recorded.

### 5. Parliamentary Procedure

Official Board business will be transacted by motion or resolution at duly called regular or special meetings.

Except as otherwise provided by state law and/or Board policy, the rules of parliamentary procedure comprised in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, "Procedure in Small Boards" as modified by the Board will govern the Board in its deliberation. Modifications will include the following: Motions will all be seconded prior to consideration for discussion by the Board and motions to close or limit debate will be acceptable.

The Board chair will decide all questions relative to points of order, subject to an appeal to the Board.

END OF POLICY

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#### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.650](#)

[ORS 244.120\(2\)](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

38 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 1995 (1978)

41 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 28 (1980)



# The Cottonwood School

Code: BDDC  
Adopted:

## Board Meeting Agenda

The Board chair, with the assistance of the executive director, will prepare an agenda for all regular meetings of the Board. Items of business may be suggested by any Board member, staff member, student or citizen of the public charter school by notifying the Board chair at least ten working days prior to the meeting.

A consent agenda may be used by the Board for noncontroversial business. The consent agenda will consist of routine business that requires action but not necessarily discussion. These items may all be approved at the same time. A Board member may ask that any item be removed from the consent agenda. The removed item will then be placed on the regular agenda.

The agenda will follow a general order established by the Board. Opportunities for the audience to be heard may be included on the agenda. The Board will follow the order of business set up by the agenda unless the order is altered by a consensus of the Board.

Items of business not on the agenda may be discussed and acted upon if the majority of the Board agrees to consider them.

The agenda<sup>1</sup> will be distributed by the public charter school office or administration to Board members prior to the meeting. The agenda distribution may also include supporting materials. The agenda will be available to the press and to interested patrons through the administration office at the same time it is available to the Board members. Copies of the agenda for the press and public will not contain any confidential information included in the Board members' packets.

A copy of the agenda will be posted on the school website on the day of the meeting. Members of the public may request a copy of the agenda through the administration office.

The public charter school will ensure equally effective communications are provided to qualified persons with disabilities, upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Appropriate auxiliary aids and services may include, but are not limited to, qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, large print, Braille materials, audio recordings and readers. Primary consideration will be given to the requests of the person with a disability in the selection of the appropriate auxiliary aid and/or service. Should the Board demonstrate such request would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or an undue financial and administrative burden, an alternate, equally effective communications will be used.

Auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities will be available at no charge to the individual.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for emergency meetings, a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting must be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

## END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.630](#)

[ORS 192.640](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006).  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BDDG  
Adopted:

## Minutes of Board Meetings

The Board secretary will take written minutes of all Board meetings. The written minutes will be a true reflection of the matters discussed at the meeting and the views of the participants. The minutes will include, but not be limited to, the following information:

1. All members of the Board who were present;
2. All motions, proposals, resolutions, orders and measures proposed and their disposition;
3. The results of all votes and the vote of each member by name;
4. The substance of any discussion on any matter;
5. Any other information required by law.

All minutes shall be available to the public within a reasonable time. The public and patrons of the public charter school may receive, upon request, copies of minutes from the school office. A copy of the minutes of each regular and special Board meeting as they are drafted for approval will be distributed after such meeting to each Board member and administrator.

The public charter school will maintain a hard copy<sup>1</sup> of the meeting minutes and make them available to staff and other interested patrons.

Minutes of executive sessions will be kept in accordance with the requirements of Oregon's Public Meetings Law with essentially the same level of detail as for public sessions. If disclosure of material in the executive session minutes would be inconsistent with the purpose for which executive session was held under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660, the material may be withheld from disclosure.

If an executive session is held pursuant to ORS 332.061, the following shall not be made public: the name of a minor student; the issue, including a student's confidential records; the discussion; and each Board member's vote on the issue.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.610 - 192.710](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

Letter Opinion, Office of the OR Attorney General (Nov. 20, 1970).

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Administrative Rule 166-400-0010(9)

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BDDH  
Adopted:

## Public Comment at Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites the school community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the school. The public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without public comment.

Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings and submit written comments to the Board. Individuals requesting assistance, aids or accommodations are encouraged to notify the public charter school at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with the request, consistent with Board policy BD/BDA – Board Meetings.

### Procedures for Oral Public Comment

The Board establishes the following procedures for public comment at Board meetings held in open session. The information will be accessible and available to all patrons accessing or attending such a Board meeting.

1. Public comment is limited to its designated place on the agenda and while time allows.
2. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting may comment on agenda items or items not on the agenda.
3. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting should state their name and, if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.
4. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of three minutes. Statements should be brief and concise. The Board chair has discretion to waive time limits or extend the overall time allotted for public comment. Additional time will be allocated in a fair and equitable manner. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to comment due to time constraints, the person is encouraged to submit additional written comments to the Board through the school office as directed.
5. Inquiries from the public during the designated portion of the agenda will not generally be responded to immediately by the Board chair, and may be referred to the executive director for reply at a later date. The Board will not respond to inquiries that are expected to be addressed during another designated portion of the agenda.

Topics raised during the public comment portion may be considered for inclusion as agenda items at future Board meetings.

### Procedures for Written Comment

Members of the public may submit written comments or materials to the Board at any time at the school office, by mail or by email to [board@thecottonwoodschool.org](mailto:board@thecottonwoodschool.org). Written materials or comments submitted may not warrant action by the Board.

### **Comments Regarding Staff Members**

A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of public charter school operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual school staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL - Public Complaints for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the executive director, who will forward it to the employee, a supervisor and the Board.

END OF POLICY

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#### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

*Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist.*, 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

*Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist.*, 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).

Oregon House Bill 2560 (2021).

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BFC  
Adopted:

## Adoption and Revision of Policies

Board policies will be subject to alteration, addition or deletion upon majority vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting in which all members have been notified in writing of the proposed alteration, addition or deletion at least 24 hours in advance. In most cases, a first reading of the policy will be scheduled on a regular meeting agenda prior to its adoption at a subsequent regular or special meeting. The Board may adopt a policy on its first reading if the Board determines it would be advantageous to the public charter school.

The formal adoption of policies will be recorded in the Board minutes. Only those written statements so adopted and so recorded will be regarded as official Board policy.

When additions, deletions or amendments are made to Board policy, the addition, deletion or amendment will carry the adoption date and the corrected copy will be published at the earliest opportunity.

The operation of any single policy, section or sections of policies not established by law or specifically listed in the current collective bargaining agreement may be temporarily suspended by a majority vote of the Board at a regular or special meeting.

The policy manual will be regularly reviewed to keep it current.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BFC  
Adopted:

## Administrative Regulations (AR)

Administrative regulations are detailed directions governing the operation of the public charter school.

The executive director is authorized to formulate such administrative regulations appropriate for the implementation of policies adopted by the Board and necessary for the consistent operation of the public charter school.

When approved by the executive director, administrative regulations shall be placed in policy binders and made available to the Board, staff and the public.

The Board may review any administrative regulation and may direct its revision if, in the Board's judgment, such administrative regulation is not consistent with adopted board policies.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

# The Cottonwood School

Code: BHD  
Adopted:

## Board Member Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

No Board member will receive any compensation for services other than reimbursement for approved expenses actually incurred on public charter school business. Such expenses may include the cost of attendance at meetings, conferences or visitations when such attendance has been approved by the Board.

When paid admission is required of the public, Board members may be reimbursed for attending school events and other activities when their attendance is consistent with board responsibilities and school operations. The public charter school will establish accounting procedures consistent with this policy.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 244.020](#)  
[ORS 244.040](#)

[ORS 332.018\(3\)](#)  
[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

OR. GOV'T STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMM'N, STAFF OPINION 02S-015 (May 20, 2002).  
OR. GOV'T STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMM'N, STAFF OPINION 03S-015 (Sept. 11, 2003).



# The Cottonwood School

Code: BHE  
Adopted:

## Board Member Liability Insurance

The public charter school will purchase liability insurance and errors-and-omissions insurance to protect its school board members individually and collectively from claims made against them as a result of official Board actions taken in the course of official duties.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 30.260 to -30.300](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)