

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
February 15, 2023
Minutes

This Meeting was recorded, and the audio recording is available from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such audio recording is intended to be the official public record of the Meeting and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Laura Indellicati, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician
Dr. Lori Rhodes, Superintendent of School Development, Stamford Public Schools
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:04 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang presented the January 18, 2023, Board of Ethics (the “BOE”) Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Ms. Smyth moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Sessa seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
2. Chairman Lang invited Dr. Lori Rhodes, Superintendent of School Development, Stamford Public Schools to share the matter for which she is seeking an advisory opinion. Before Dr. Rhodes proceeded, Ms. Indellicati reported to the BOE that she recently learned that she sits on another board with Ms. Rhodes and feels she should recuse herself from the discussion and decision-making with respect to this matter. Ms. Indellicati then left the meeting while the discussion ensued.

Dr. Rhodes reported that her husband has been offered consulting work by Domus Kids, Inc. a non-profit that contracts with the Stamford Public Schools to perform work at

Stamford schools over which Dr. Rhodes does not supervise. Dr. Rhodes asked for an advisory opinion from the BOE as to whether it would pose any problem in relation to the Code of Ethics if her husband accepted the contract position with Domus. Dr. Rhodes addressed questions from the BOE and discussion ensued.

The BOE concluded that, because Dr. Rhodes has no influence over, or involvement with, Domus programs or any financial decision-making responsibility with respect to Domus and its programs, and she is not in a position to gain any improper financial or other benefit from Domus if her husband accepted the position, there does not appear to be the potential for a violation of the Code of Ethics. Ms. Smyth offered to draft the advisory opinion on this matter for review and consideration at the next BOE meeting.

3. Ms. Indellicati returned to the meeting, and Chairman Lang brought forth for review the draft advisory opinion prepared for Board of Representative member Megan Cottrell. Discussion ensued and suggested changes were submitted for consideration, which Chairman Lang will incorporate into a new draft.

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary