



Charter Application Board Governance

Charter public school boards play a vital role in the success of a charter school. CMU appoints the independent school board and each member swears the constitutional oath of office signifying their role as a public official and commitment to governing the charter school. The relationship and expectations between the CMU Board of Trustees and the school board of directors is set forth in the charter contract.

As public officials, board members set policy, are responsible for compliance with the charter contract and applicable law, and guide the school. The board's primary responsibility is to ensure adherence to the mission and vision of the school, its charter contract and applicable law. To be a public official in the State of Michigan, you must be a Michigan resident and a United States citizen.

According to Michigan's charter school law, the applicant identifies candidates to be considered for appointment to the school's initial board of directors. The number of members of the board shall not be less than five nor more than nine. The term of each position of the school's board of directors is four years, except for the terms of the initial board which are staggered (i.e., one, two, three and four year terms).

Board development and recruitment should be viewed as a collaborative effort between the applicant and The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools. The Center staff will work with the applicant throughout this process. Upon receiving the names of those wishing to serve on the board, a diligent review process begins composed of the following:

- Review of the Charter Public School Application for Board Appointment, including the applicant's agreement to complete conditions of appointment;
- Personal background check, including a criminal records check;
- Face-to-face meeting with individual candidates.

If each of these elements is found to be satisfactory, the Center will recommend board members be appointed by the CMU Board of Trustees. If appointed, each individual will need to take and sign the Oath of Public Office and will begin to serve on the board.

School boards are self-perpetuating. Thus, the board of directors must nominate future members at their public meetings. Upon proper nomination, the board forwards the names to the Center for processing. Again, if all elements are found to be satisfactory, the Center will consider recommending appointment by the CMU Board of Trustees.

The Academy shall comply with the Incompatible Public Offices statute, Act No. 566 of the Public Acts of 1978, of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and the Contracts of Public Servants With Public Entities statute, Act No. 371 of the Public Acts of 1968, of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and all applicable law.

The following shall be deemed prohibited incompatible public offices and conflicts of interest:

- a) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and an owner, officer, director, employee or consultant of an educational service provider or an employee leasing company, or a



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subcontractor to an educational service provider or an employee leasing company that has an ESP Agreement with the academy;

- b) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and an academy board employee;
- c) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and an independent contractor to the academy;
- d) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and a member of the governing board of another public school;
- e) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and a University official, employee, or paid consultant, as a representative of the University; and
- f) An individual simultaneously serving as an academy board member and having an ownership or financial interest in any real or personal property leased or subleased to the academy.

No person shall be appointed or reappointed to serve as an academy board member if the person's mother, mother-in-law, father, father-in-law, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, spouse or domestic partner:

- a) Is employed by the academy board;
- b) Works at or is assigned to work at the academy;
- c) Has an ownership, officer, policymaking, managerial, administrative non-clerical or other significant role with the academy's educational service provider or employee leasing company; and
- d) Has an ownership or financial interest in any school building lease or sublease agreement with the academy.
- e) Is a current Academy Board member.