

INDIANA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



**ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING**  
State Form 55860 (R/ 10-15)  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
IC 4-2-6-9

FEB 10 2020

FILED

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (last) Watts	Name (first) Brian	Name (middle) J.
Name of office or agency Indiana State Board of Education		Job title Board Member-Chair
Address of office (number and street) 143 W. Market Street		City Indianapolis
		ZIP code 46204
Office telephone number ( 317 ) 232-2000	Office e-mail address (required) bj.watts@evsck12.com	
Describe the conflict of interest: Mr. Watts is currently <del>employed</del> <sup>employed</sup> as the Executive Director of Opportunities through Partnerships that Transform & Inspire ("OptIN"), which is affiliated with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation ("EVSC"). IC 20-20-43 et seq. established the "System for Teacher and Student Advancement Grant Fund Program." EVSC has applied for a grant pursuant to this Program.		
Indiana Code 4-2-6-9 (Conflict of Economic Interest; Commission Advisory Opinions; Disclosure Statement; Written Determinations) states in relevant part:		
(a) A state officer, an employee, or a special state appointee may not participate in any decision or vote, or matter relating to that decision or vote, if the state officer, employee, or special state appointee has knowledge that any of the following has a financial interest in the outcome of the matter:		
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(3) A business organization in which the state officer, employee, or special state appointee is serving as an officer, a director, a member, a trustee, a partner, or an employee.		
During the February 5, 2020, Board meeting, an action item labeled "B. Approval of Career Ladders Grants," which included a potential grant award for EVSC, was presented to the Board. The term "Career Ladders" refers to the "System for Teacher and Student Advancement Grant Fund and Program. Due to Mr. Watts affiliation with EVSC, which had a financial interest in the outcome of the matter, Mr. Watts did not participate in the discussion or vote when the Board reached this agenda item.		

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: *(Attach additional pages as needed.)*

The Board's ethics officer routinely reviews all materials presented to the Board to identify potential conflicts of interest for Board members. Additionally, Board members are required to engage in ethics training on a regular basis as required by state law. This training ensures Board members are able to identify potential ethics issues that may arise in their official capacity as special state appointees.

**AFFIRMATION**

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Date signed (month, day, year)

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brian J. Watts

2-5-20

**FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY**

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Date signed (month, day, year)

Printed full name of ethics officer

Chad E. Ranney

2/5/2020

**Ranney, Chad E**

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**From:** Watts, BJ <bj.watts@evsck12.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Ranney, Chad E

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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Chad,

Due to a conflict of interest, I recused myself from the vote on Action Item B – Approval of Career Ladders Grants – during the February 5, 2020 Board Meeting.

Thanks,

B. J.

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*Thank you,*

*B. J. Watts*

*OptIN Executive Director*

*812-435-8888 Extension: 11081*

**"I've always believed you hire character and train skill" Lori Greiner**

