

INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING
 State Form 55880 (R / 10-15)
 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
 IC 4-2-6-9

DEC 28 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. Washington 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 employed as the Executive Director of Opportunities through Partnerships that Transform & Inspire ("OptIN"), which is affiliated with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation ("EVSC"). During the December 9, 2020 State Board of Education ("Board") business meeting, the Board was set to discuss and vote on three separate items related to EVSC: Consent Agenda Item d - Excessive Homeschool Exit Audit; Consent Agenda Item f - Common School Loan Advances; and New Business Action Item b.v. - HEA 1003 Flexibility Waiver Requests - Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Indiana Code 4-2-6-9 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:

(3) A business organization in which the state officer, employee, or special state appointee is serving as an officer, a director, a member, a partner, or an employee.

Due to Mr. Watts affiliation with EVSC and the impact the aforementioned votes could have on EVSC, which has a financial interest in the outcome of the matters, Mr. Watts recused himself from the discussions and votes related to the matters identified herein.

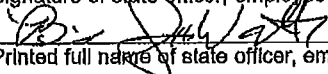
Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: *(Attach additional pages as needed.)*

The Board's ethics officer routinely reviews all materials presented to the Board to identify any potential conflicts of interest for Board members. Additionally, Board members are required to engage in ethics trainings 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)

12/17/2020

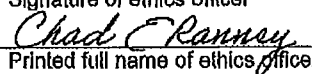
Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brian J. Watts

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)

12/17/2020

Printed full name of ethics officer

Chad E. Ranney

Ranney, Chad E

From: Ranney, Chad E
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 9:35 AM
To: BJ Watts
Cc: Murphy, Brian (SBOE)
Subject: Recusal from Votes 12/9/20 - EVSC

Good morning, BJ.

I've just finished reviewing the agenda and materials for the December Board meeting, and I wanted to bring a few potential conflicts of interest to your attention. Due to your employment with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, I recommend recusing yourself from the scheduled votes on the following:

- **Consent Agenda – Item d. Excessive Homeschool Exit Audit**
- **Consent Agenda – Item f. Common School Loan Advances**
- **New Business – Item b.v. HEA 1003 Flexibility Waiver Requests – Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation**

Please announce your recusal from the votes w/ respect to these item before you introduce the consent agenda and New Business Item b. for action.

I'll put together your disclosure form. Once it's completed, I'll send it over for your review and signature. Please let me know if you have any questions about the potential conflicts identified above.

Best,

Chad E. Ranney
General Counsel
Sr. Director – Policy & Legislative Affairs

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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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