

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21, et seq., was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in School Board Members and School Administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided guidance regarding how a board of education should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education is not available because members of the board of education have conflicts of interest on a matter to be addressed and voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Board will have a discussion concerning the employment of the Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board have conflicts of interest that would prevent their participation in such discussion as follows:

1. Patricia Blome's daughter, Kristen Howell, is a teacher who is indirectly supervised by the Superintendent of Schools; and,
2. Linda Hartong's sister, Dana Zelochoski, is a secretary who is indirectly supervised by the Superintendent of Schools; and,
3. Julie Kozempel is legally conflicted from any Board discussion or action regarding any employment issue related to the superintendent of schools because of (a) her involvement with the Board's hiring of Insurance Consulting Services LLC, which serves as the basis for a complaint filed by the superintendent of schools alleging wrongdoing on behalf of the Board and (b) the fact that she was named a defendant in an Ethics Complaint filed by the superintendent of schools; and,
4. Elayne Clancy is legally conflicted from any Board discussion or action regarding any employment issue related to the superintendent of schools because of her involvement with the Board's hiring of Insurance Consulting Services LLC, which serves as the basis for a complaint filed by the superintendent of schools alleging wrongdoing on behalf of the Board; and,
5. Carol Chila is legally conflicted from any Board discussion or action regarding any employment issue related to the superintendent of schools as a result of a recent Ethics Complaint filed against her and the superintendent of schools alleging that the superintendent of schools provided a member of Ms. Chila's family with preferential treatment.

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, the Board does not have a quorum available to discuss the Superintendent of Schools and/or take action related to the superintendent of schools, and the Board has determined that it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington Township Board of Education that the Doctrine of Necessity is hereby invoked with respect to the Board's discussion about the Superintendent of Schools and any public vote related thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, having been read at a public meeting of the Board on March 18, 2025, be posted in accordance with the Board's standard procedures for not less than 30 days and that the Board Secretary reflect the same in the minutes of the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the School Ethics Commission.