

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

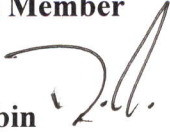


Office of Government Ethics

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Robert J. Spagnoletti
Chairman, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Ethics Board)**

**Deborah Lathen
Ethics Board Member**

THROUGH: Darrin P. Sobin 
Director of Government Ethics

**FROM: Cristina Patzelt
Attorney Advisor**

DATE: September 30, 2015

**RE: 1390-001 Office of the State Superintendent for Education (“OSSE”) Request
for Opinion Regarding Potential Conflict and Request for Waiver of Any
Potential Conflict**

This responds to the September 2, 2015 Memorandum of Antoinette Mitchell, Superintendent for Postsecondary and Career Education at OSSE, in which she requests a determination with regard to whether a conflict of interest exists under DC Official Code § 1-1162.23(a), as to an OSSE employee’s wife taking a position as a Board Member of a Public Charter School within the District over which the employee has some authority. And, if so determined, to request a waiver of any potential conflict of interest.

Based upon the information provided in Ms. Mitchell’s Memorandum, I conclude that the OSSE employee would be participating in a particular matter which is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of a person closely affiliated with the employee, but that the interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services that the government may expect from the employee. I recommend that the Board grant the waiver requested.