

## REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

**File: BEDFA**

### ABSTENTIONS

An abstention is a non-expression and cannot be considered a vote in favor of or against a motion.

Each member of a public body has the duty to express a choice or preference by voting on the issues, but can legally abstain from doing so when there is a statutory or ethical conflict of interest. Not to vote is to abstain.

Abstentions are intended for situations where a member may have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter being voted on.

Legal Reference: 30 MRSA § 2605 et seq.

Cross Reference: BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest  
BEDF - Voting Method

Date of Adoption: March 26, 2009

Policies/RSU No. 18 Policies/B – Board Governance and Operations/BEDFA - Abstentions