

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY**

**ETHICS REVIEW PANEL**

**ADVISORY OPINION 01-02**

This advisory opinion is in response to a request made by ██████████, an Administrator at ██████████ School, Baltimore County Public Schools. ██████████ has been invited to teach a select group of Rochester City Public Schools teachers as part of an SAT Training Cadre, hosted by the College Board. It is noted that the College Board would pay the expenses, to include airfare and other incidentals of ██████████. ██████████ also states that if a stipend for services is offered, ██████████ would donate the amount to Kid Care, ██████████ school's scholarship fund, or to another organization. The petitioner is requesting an advisory opinion regarding the potential of an Ethics Code violation.

The relevant section of the Ethics Code is as follows:

*Section 8362*

*1. Gifts to the Board of Education, Schools, and Offices within the School System*

*As the Baltimore County Public Schools continue the practice of school-based management, it becomes increasingly important to establish firm guidelines on the acceptance of gifts by school and offices on behalf of the Board of Education.*

*The Board of Education encourages the formation of partnerships between schools and businesses and recognizes that these relationships frequently include gifts to schools and offices to enhance the educational programs of students.*

*The Board of Education, schools, and offices may accept any bequest or gift of money or property for a purpose deemed suitable. All gifts shall be accepted in the name of the Board of Education. All gifts will become the property of the Board of Education and may be designated by the Board for use in a particular school or office.*

*Any gifts presented to the Board of Education, schools, and offices must be accompanied by a document of intent from the donor for official action and recognition.*

*To be acceptable, a gift must meet the following criteria:*

- *have a purpose consistent with those of the Board of Education, schools, or offices*
- *be offered by a donor acceptable to the Board of Education, schools, or offices*

- *be manageable by existing staff*
- *not begin a program with the assumption that the Board of Education will take over if the funds are exhausted*
- *place no restrictions on the school program*
- *be appropriate to the best education of students*
- *not imply endorsement of any business or product*
- *not carry an excessive cost of maintenance or installation*
- *be consistent with the provisions of the school code or public law.*

*When installation is required, the gift will be installed under the supervision of personnel of the Board of Education. The Board is under no obligation to replace the gift if it is destroyed or becomes worn out.*

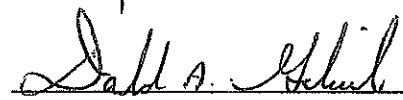
*A letter of appreciation will be sent to the donor.*


Additional facts to this petition include that the Baltimore County Public Schools has entered into a partnership relationship with the College Board. As noted by the Ethics Code, these partnerships are encouraged by the Board of Education. The payment of expenses in relationship to [REDACTED] services are not in violation of the Ethics Code as they are directly related to the partnership and not considered a gift to [REDACTED]. Therefore, any stipend from the College Board should be paid directly to the Board of Education, school, or organization within the school system.

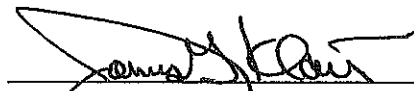
**This Advisory Opinion has been signed by the Ethics Panel members and adopted on April 19, 2001.**

  
Karen Strand, Chair

ABSENT  
Joy Shillman, Panel Member

  
Donald A. Gabriel, Vice Chair

  
Roland Unger, C.P.A., Panel Member

  
James G. Klair, Esq., Panel Member