

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
ETHICS REVIEW PANEL
ADVISORY OPINION 18-01

This Advisory Opinion 18-01 is in response to a request made by petitioner, an employee of the Baltimore County Public Schools ("BCPS"), who requested clarification of the Ethics Code as it applies to a business owned by petitioner's mother-in-law, and which is in discussions with another BCPS school (other than that at which petitioner is employed) to provide before and after school care services.

The petitioner informed the Panel that petitioner has no financial interest in the business; that her husband provides volunteer assistance to the business, and requested an advisory opinion regarding whether there exist any ethical concerns if petitioner's mother-in-law's business is contracted by BCPS.

The relevant sections of the Ethics Code are as follows:

ETHICS CODE: Definitions and Conflict of Interest

Policy 8360 Applicability and Definitions

I. Applicability

- A. The Ethics Code of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) applies to members of the Board, the Superintendent, employees, consultants of the Baltimore County Public Schools, and the Board's volunteer appointees to its panels and councils (hereinafter, "School System Official").

II. Definitions

- F. Employee - means an individual whose compensation is paid in whole or part by the Board and/or is a student teacher for the school system.
- J. Immediate Family - means spouse and dependent children.

Policy 8363 Conflict of Interest - Prohibited Conduct

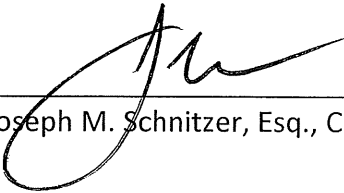
I. Policy Statement

- A. Members of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board), the Superintendent, employees, consultants, and volunteers (hereinafter, "School System Official") shall not participate on behalf of the school system in any matter which would, to their knowledge, have a direct financial impact, as distinguished from the public generally, on them, their immediate family, or a business entity

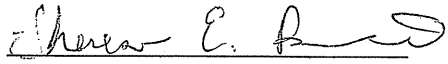
with which they are affiliated.

Petitioner has represented that she is not affiliated with the business entity described and the matter will not have a financial impact on any immediate family members of petitioner. Based on information received, the Ethics Review Panel agreed that the activity described is not one in which there appears to exist a conflict of interest at the present time. However, if the business in the future engages in contract discussions with the school at which petitioner is employed, and if petitioner is involved in those negotiations there could exist a conflict at such time.

This opinion has been signed by the Ethics Review Panel members and adopted on February 15, 2018.



Joseph M. Schnitzer, Esq., Chair



Theresa E. Barrett, Panel Member

ABSENT

Scott Bryson, Vice Chair



T. Ross Mackesey, Panel Member