

GIFTS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, MEMORIAL FUNDS AND BEQUESTS

Only the Board of Education may accept gifts, grants, scholarships, memorial funds and/or bequests of money and/or real or personal property which, in the view of the Board, add to the overall welfare of the school district, provided that such acceptance is in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to accept any gift which does not contribute towards the achievement of the district's goals or the ownership of which would tend to deplete the resources of the district. At the same time, the Board will safeguard the district, the staff and students from commercial exploitation, from special interest groups, and the like.

The Board will not accept any gifts or grants which will place any restrictions or encumbrances on future Boards, or result in unreasonable additional or hidden costs to the district.

The Board will not formally consider the acceptance of any gift, grant, scholarship or memorial fund until and unless it receives the offer in writing from the donor/grantor. Any such gift or grant donated to the Board and accepted on behalf of the district must be by official action and resolution passed by Board majority. The Board would prefer the gift or grant to be a general offer rather than a specific one. Consequently, the Board would suggest that the donor/grantor work first with the school administrators in determining the nature of the gift or grant prior to formal consideration for acceptance by the Board. However, the Board, in its discretion, may direct the Superintendent of Schools to apply such gift or grant for the benefit of a specific school or school program.

In granting or withholding its consent, the Board will review the following factors:

1. The terms of the gift must identify:
 - a. the subject of the gift
 - b. the purpose of the gift
 - c. the beneficiary or beneficiaries if any
 - d. all conditions or restrictions that may apply.
2. The gift must not benefit a particular or named individual or individuals.
3. If the purpose of the gift is an award to a single student, the determination of the recipient of such award shall be made on the basis that all students shall have an equal opportunity to qualify for it in conformance with federal and state law.
4. If the gift is in trust, the obligation of the investment and reinvestment of the principal shall be clearly specified and the application of the income or investment proceeds shall be clearly set forth.

5. No gift or trust will be accepted by the Board unless:
 - a. it is in support of and a benefit to all or to a particular public school in the district,
or
 - b. it is for a purpose for which the school district could legally expend its own funds,
or
 - c. it is for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students graduating from the district.

Gifts and grants of money, scholarships and/or memorial funds to the district shall be annually accounted for under the trust and agency account in the bank designated by the Board. Grants for which the district applies, and where such application is successful, will be reported to the board on a quarterly basis.

All gifts, grants, scholarships, memorial funds and/or bequests approved by the Board shall become district property. A letter of appreciation, signed by the President of the Board and the Superintendent, will be sent to the donor/grantor in recognition of his/her contribution to the school district.

Any gift rejected by the Board shall be returned to the donor or his/her estate within 60 days together with a statement indicating the reasons for the rejection of such gift.

The Board is prohibited, in accordance with the New York State Constitution, from making gifts/charitable contributions with district funds.

Ref: N.Y.S. Constitution, Art. 8, §1
Education Law 1709(12)

Cross Ref: 2160, School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics

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