

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY


ETHICS REVIEW PANEL

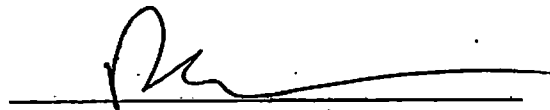
ADVISORY OPINION 10-08

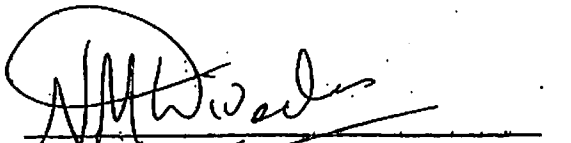
This Advisory Opinion 10-08 is in response to a request made by the petitioner, an employee of the Baltimore County Public Schools ("BCPS"). The petitioner is inquiring whether it is permissible under the BCPS Ethics Code for employees to sign the "Applications for Use of School Facilities and Indemnification and Insurance" form as the duly authorized representative for an outside group or organization.

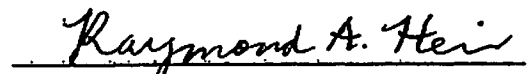
The petitioner presented information which indicated that employees, including PTA presidents, had been signing the applications for facility use. Upon consideration of the information presented, the panel could not find a specific violation of the Ethics Code. The petitioner seemed to be requesting a blanket response, but a decision would have to be made on a case-by-case basis. The decision would have to be based on the nature of the request made and on the procedures established. Numerous issues would need to be considered, including if the organization stood to benefit in any way or if there were potential conflicts of interest. The Ethics Review Panel could not respond to the petitioner's general question but would be available to consider a specific situation that might be presented in a future request for an advisory opinion.

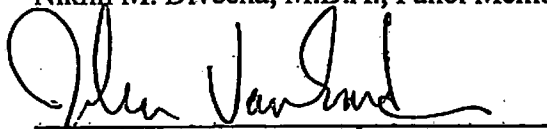
This opinion has been signed by the Ethics Review Panel members and adopted on January 20, 2011.

  
Mary C. Burke, LCSW-C, BCD, Chair

  
Philip Abraham, Esq., Vice Chair

  
Nikhil M. Divecha, M.B.A., Panel Member

  
Raymond A. Hein, Esq., Panel Member

  
John Van Emden, Panel Member