

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
ETHICS REVIEW PANEL
ADVISORY OPINION 17-04

This Advisory Opinion 17-04 is in response to a request made by petitioners, employees of the Baltimore County Public Schools ("BCPS"), who requested clarification of the Ethics Code as it applies to BCPS employees who are involved in fundraising for after school mentoring clubs.

The petitioners requested an advisory opinion regarding whether BCPS employees may engage in fundraising for an after school club at the school where such employee is a teacher. The club is for the purpose of mentoring and leadership skill development of young men at the school. The club has fundraising events to support students with field trips, neckties and to provide funding for small gifts for volunteer speakers. All funds are managed by the school and the teacher managing the club does not receive any personal financial benefit other than being compensated by the BCPS Extended Day Activities Fund as a school based mentor.

The relevant sections of the Ethics Code Section 8363 are as follows:

"I. Policy Statement


Members of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board), the Superintendent and employees (hereinafter, "School Official ") shall not participate on behalf of the Board or 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."

"VI. Prestige of Office

A. A school system official may not intentionally use the prestige of office or public position for private gain of that official or the private gain of another..."

Based on information received that the School Official will not benefit financially from the mentoring club and will not be using the club to derive any private gain, the Ethics Review Panel concludes that the activities described are permissible and not in violation of the Ethics Code. The Ethics Review Panel applauds the efforts put forth for mentoring and development of leadership skills of BCPS students.

This opinion has been signed by the Ethics Review Panel members and adopted on

December  , 2017.



Joseph M. Schnitzer, Esq., Chair



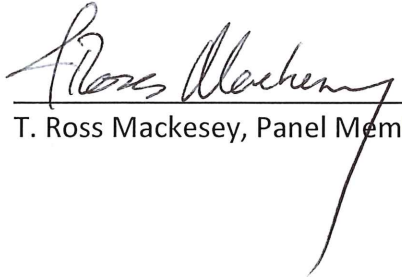
Scott Bryson, Vice Chair



Theresa E. Barrett, Panel Member



Clare McSpadden, Esq., Panel Member



T. Ross Mackesey, Panel Member