

Community Relations

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND FUND RAISINGSolicitation of Charitable Donations From School Children

Direct solicitation of charitable donations from children in the District schools on school property during regular school hours shall not be permitted. It is a violation of District policy to ask District school children directly to contribute money or goods for the benefit of a charity during the hours in which District students are compelled to be on school premises.

However, this policy does not prevent the following types of fund raising activities:

- a) Fund raising activities which take place off school premises, or outside of regular school hours during before-school or after-school extracurricular periods. The *proceeds* from these activities may be collected from the students in the classroom or homeroom.
- b) Arms-length transactions, where the purchaser receives a consideration for his/her donation. For example, the sale of goods or tickets for concerts or social events, where the proceeds go to charity, shall not be prohibited as the purchaser will receive consideration - the concert or social event - for the funds expended;
- c) Indirect forms of charitable solicitation on school premises that do not involve coercion, such as placing a bin or collection box in a hallway or other common area for the donation of food, clothing, other goods or money.

The Board of Education shall ultimately decide which organizations, groups, etc. can solicit charitable donations and for what purposes, as long as the activities comply with the terms of this policy and the Rules of the Board of Regents.

Soliciting Funds from School Personnel

Soliciting of funds from school personnel by persons or organizations representing public or private organizations shall be prohibited. The Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to make exceptions to this policy in cases where such solicitation is considered to be in the District's best interest. The Board of Education shall be notified of these instances.

Distribution of information about worthwhile area charities may be made through the Office of the Superintendent of Schools as a service to School District personnel.

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Community Relations

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING (CONT.)Fund Raising

The Board of Education acknowledges the educational desirability of the twin goals of fundraising within the School District:

- a) To raise funds to finance projects of measurable benefit to our children, but which projects cannot be financed in any other way.
- b) To promote cohesion, cooperation, and esprit in school sponsored organizations and in organizations closely related to school activities.

In its endorsement of these two goals of fundraising activities, the Board of Education recognizes the necessity to extend its approval to fundraising activities which by their nature benefit the children of the District, and to withhold its approval from those which serve other corporate ends. The Board further recognizes its responsibility to the parents of the District to limit fundraising activities in order to prevent parents from being exposed to the double jeopardy of financing education through taxes and, again, through extensive fundraising activities. To that end, the Board of Education directs the administration to adhere to the following controls:

- a) A school organization may sponsor fundraising activities, but only with the approval of the administration after presenting budgets that justify the proposed expenditure and estimations that justify the amount of money to be raised through the activity.
- b) The Board of Education approves and endorses for active school participation PTO fundraising projects, provided those projects have been devised with the advice of the building principal.
- c) The Board of Education withholds its approval and endorsement of fundraising projects that serve corporations and agencies unrelated to the School District. The Board of Education directs the administration to limit its involvement in this latter type of fund raising activity to the distribution of literature about such fund drive.
- d) The Board of Education withholds its approval and endorsement of all forms of crowdfunding. This includes crowdfunding for the purposes of raising funds as well as for acquiring materials, supplies or other items.

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Community Relations

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING (CONT.)Advertising in the Schools

Neither the facilities, the staff, nor the students of the School District shall be employed in any manner for advertising or otherwise promoting the interests of any commercial, political, or other non-school agency, individual or organization, except that:

- a) Schools may cooperate in furthering the work of any non-profit, community-wide, social service agency, provided that such cooperation does not restrict or impair the educational program of the schools or conflict with Section 19.6 of the Rules of the Board of Regents;
- b) The schools may use films or other educational materials bearing only simple mention of the producing firm;
- c) The Superintendent of Schools may, at his/her discretion, announce or authorize to be announced, any lecture or other community activity of particular educational merit;
- d) The schools may, upon approval of the Superintendent of Schools, cooperate with any agency in promoting activities in the general public interest that are non-partisan and non-controversial, and that promote the education and other best interests of the students.

It is the responsibility of the agency to provide materials, such as posters and/or flyers, in a quantity for distribution. No poster or flyer will be promoted without the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, and it is at the discretion of the Superintendent to allow any materials to be sent home with a student.

No materials of a commercial nature shall be distributed through the children in attendance in the Gouverneur Central Schools except as authorized by law or the Commissioner's Regulations.

Regulations shall be developed by the administration to implement this policy.

8 NYCRR Section 19.6
New York State Constitution Article VIII,
Section 1 Education Law Section 414

Refer also to Policies #5661 -- Wellness
#7420 -- Sports and the Athletic Program

Adopted: 8/5/96
Revised: 7/6/98, 2/3/20