

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, GRANTS, MEMORIALS AND/OR BEQUESTS TO THE DISTRICT

The Board may accept gifts, donations, grants, memorials and/or bequests (collectively "gifts") of money, real or personal property, as well as other merchandise that add to the overall welfare of the District, provided that acceptance is in accordance with existing laws and regulations. Donations to the school are fully tax-deductible so long as the gift is used exclusively for public purposes in accordance with USC Section 170(c). The Board may refuse any gift that constitutes a conflict of interest, gives an appearance of impropriety, or is not in its best interests. 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 which will place encumbrances on future Boards, or result in unreasonable additional or hidden costs to the District. The Board may, if it deems it necessary, request that gifts of equipment, facilities, or any item that requires upkeep and maintenance include funds to carry out maintenance for the foreseeable life of the donation.

The Board will not formally consider the acceptance of gifts until and unless it receives the offer in writing from the donor or grantor or their attorney or financial advisor. Any gifts 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 to be a general offer rather than a specific one. Consequently, the Board would suggest that the donor or grantor work first with the school administrators in determining the nature of the gift prior to formal consideration for acceptance by the Board. However, the Board, in its discretion, may direct the Superintendent to apply the gift for the benefit of a specific school or school program.

Memorials offered in memory of specific individuals or groups shall be considered for Board approval after completion of the required Memorial Application. Such memorial gifts must be considered in light of overall aesthetics, necessary upkeep and maintenance requirements, and equity considerations.

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

Gifts of money to the District will be annually accounted for under the trust and agency account in the bank designated by the Board.

All gifts become District property. A letter of appreciation, signed by the President of the Board or the Superintendent, will be sent to a donor or grantor in recognition of his or her contribution to the District. Letters will be sent in a timely manner and will acknowledge the possible tax deduction available to donors whose gifts qualify under IRS regulations.

New York State Constitution Article 8, Section 1
Education Law Section 1709(12), 1709(12-a) and 1718(2)
General Municipal Law Section 805-a(1)

Adopted: 3/26/19
Revised: 3/28/23