

The Board of Education and the School District, from time to time, are approached by individuals and other entities interested in donating money or goods to the School District. In addition, from time-to-time individuals may wish to provide gifts to either the School District, individuals or its students.

It shall be the policy of the School District to accept donations, provided they are made within the statutory authority granted to school districts and have received the approval of the Board of Education.

The Board of Education reserves the right to refuse to accept any gift which does not contribute towards the achievement of the School District's goals, or the ownership of which would deplete the resources of the School District. In accepting or rejecting gifts and donations, the Board of Education 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; and
  - d. all conditions or restrictions that may apply.
2. The gift must not benefit a particular or named individual or individuals.
3. 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.

Gifts to the School District and/or individuals should:

- a. have a purpose consistent with those of the School District;
- b. not add staff load;
- c. not underwrite a program which the Board of Education would be unwilling to take over when gift or grant funds are exhausted;
- d. not bring undesirable or hidden costs to the School District;
- e. place no restrictions on School District program(s);
- f. not be inappropriate or harmful to the education of the students in the School District;
- g. not imply endorsement or promotion of any religion;
- h. not imply endorsement or promotion of any business or products; and
- i. be consistent with any other Board of Education/administrative directives or goals.

# VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR

## DONATIONS AND GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 1313

All gifts are to be made to the Board of Education and not to particular schools or school organizations. The Board of Education will accept, acknowledge receipt of and express appreciation for all approved benefactors in its sole discretion and in accordance with the law.

Any gift rejected by the Board of Education shall be returned to the donor or their estate within sixty (60) days together with a statement indicating the reasons for the rejection of such gift.

### GIFTS TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Gifts by students and/or parents/guardians to School District employees are discouraged as a means of showing appreciation. If a student or a parent/guardian has a desire to express gratitude toward a School District employee, any gift given should be of an inconsequential material value.

No officer, member of the Board of Education, employee, official, or consultant acting on behalf of the School District will directly or indirectly receive any gift in violation of Board of Education Policy 8250, Employee Code of Ethics. No gift will be received under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence the performance of their duties or to gain favor for the donor.

While rules for ethical conduct cannot be specific enough to anticipate every conceivable situation, certain specifics are cited to further clarify the School District's intent that gifts and favors will be avoided.

1. No gift (as defined above) will be accepted from any person or organization doing business with the School District or seeking its business.
2. No gift of more than nominal value will be exchanged between employees.
3. No member of the Board of Education, officer, employee, official or consultant acting on behalf of the School District will request or solicit any gift from any student, parent, teacher, administrator or vendor.

### GIFTS TO STUDENTS

Only those privileges, honors or awards earned through competition in regularly established programs or based upon their own academic or school achievements will be conferred upon students.

Gifts or privileges that could be interpreted as endowing students with a special status will not be given to the students by the staff.

#### Coordinating with Support Organizations

The School District requires independent support organizations (e.g., booster clubs, parent-

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teacher associations, education foundations) seeking to make a contribution of money or property to first meet with the Building Principal or Superintendent of Schools to identify the terms and conditions of the proposed gift and the needs of the School District. The Board of Education must approve such gifts and donations prior to any public announcement of the contribution.

GRADUATION AWARDS

Any award made by an individual or organization at the annual graduation, in addition to being for the good of the School District, must

1. be approved by the Board of Education;
2. clearly specify the area of achievement that is being recognized; and
3. have the recipient determined by School District administration.

Cross-Reference: Policy 8250 Board Member, School District Officers and Employee Code of Ethics

Adoption date: November 18, 2020  
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