

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Supplemental Funding

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The Superintendent shall inform the Board of any gifts, grants or bequests offered to the Vernon School System. If such gifts(s) are approved by the board, the superintendent may be authorized to accept such gifts on behalf of the Vernon School System. All gifts received become the property of the board of education to be expended or used at its discretion. The term "gifts" shall include money, services, programs, equipment, or other items of value and is defined as a donation of consumable or durable goods with a cumulative value established by the Board and which enhances school programs, curriculum areas, and/or school facilities.

Recommendations for acceptance of a gift shall be made by the Superintendent and the appropriate principal or program manager after consideration of curriculum and budgeting impacts.

Community organizations, including Parent-Teacher Organizations, raising funds for particular schools or school activities must have prior board approval for such fund-raising for particular schools or school activities which will eventually result in donations or gifts to the school district.

Board review and approval of such activities shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. where a particular building or program in the system may be designated to be the recipient of such gifts, such designation must be approved by the Board.
2. If no agreement can be reached, the gift(s) shall not be accepted.

Fund Raising

1. Prior to any fund-raising activity on behalf of schools, pupils, or the school district by community organizations, approval must be obtained from the Board of Education.
2. There shall be sufficient educational or financial benefits to the school and/or students, either directly or indirectly, to justify fund-raising.
3. Anticipated gifts or donations will not supplant board of education responsibility for educational funding, nor shall outside funding produce major educational inequities among elementary schools.

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4. School district involvement in fund-raising will neither be an unacceptable burden to teachers or other school staff members nor subject the school to any significant risks or responsibilities in handling funds.
5. Fund-raising shall be in good taste and appropriate for the school district.
6. School staff and education programs shall be safeguarded against any inappropriate influence or constraints from individual or corporate donors because of their contributions to the school district.
7. Public recognition for contributions received shall be appropriate and balanced.
8. Without specific Board of Education approval, the Superintendent of schools shall not accept funds from an outside organization which did not obtain prior Board of Education approval for the fund-raising which resulted in the proposed gift.
9. Following the board's approval of a program or for the continuation of a program supported by funds from sources outside of the amount allocated by the town=s fiscal authority, the Superintendent, or designee, is authorized to sign all required forms.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes
10-220 Duties of boards of education.