

## **ONLINE FUNDRAISING AND SOLICITATIONS - CROWDFUNDING**

School District employees shall comply with all of the following provisions relating to online solicitations and the use of crowdfunding services for school-related purposes as well as all applicable laws, regulations and district policies. No online fundraising for school-related purposes may occur except as provided below.

Fundraising activities require approval from the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent shall have authority to approve to preclude any online fundraising activities by school district employees for school-related purposes.

The Principal of each school shall not approve fundraising activities within their buildings and/or online prior to confirming Superintendent approval.

To the extent an employee solicits or receives donation of any technology or software, the employee shall secure the prior written approval of the Director of Technology or designee prior to any such solicitation.

Any employee seeking to display or post a photograph of a student in conjunction with a fundraising solicitation must first secure the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Employees shall not use a crowdfunding source, or set up their appeal in such a way, that they are asking for donations directly from people over whom the employee making the request has authority, or with whom the public employee is having official dealings (such as parents/guardians of student's in a teacher's classroom - the solicitation can say "Classroom X needs tissues and crayons," but it shouldn't be directed to parents/guardians who have shared email addresses with the teacher for purposes of communicating about their student).

Employees must verify under the crowdfunding service's terms and conditions that they meet all requirements for such solicitation. Items or proceeds directly sent to employees are considered gifts to the employee and may result in violation of state ethics laws.

If an employee's proposal is approved by the crowdfunding service, the employee agrees to use the donated materials solely as stated in the employee's proposal.

If a solicitation is not fully funded within the time period required by the crowdfunding service, or the solicitation cannot be concluded for any reason, every attempt will be made to return donations to the donors. Donations unable to be returned shall only be used in a manner directed by the Superintendent.

Unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent in writing, all goods and/or proceeds solicited and received through any online solicitation shall become the property of the School Committee, and not of the individual employee who solicited the item(s) or funds. The employee is prohibited from taking any such item(s) or funds to another school or location, without the Superintendent's written approval.

LEGAL REFS:           MGL 44:53A; 71:37A; 268A:3; 268A:23;  
                              Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion EC-COI-12-1;

CROSS REFS:       GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest;  
                      GBEBC, Gifts To and Solicitations by Staff;  
                      KCD, Public Gifts to Schools

Adopted:       September 20, 2022

**NOTE: Crowdfunding services are defined as any online service used for the solicitation of goods, services, or money from a large number of people via the internet or other electronic network. Examples include GoFundme, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, YouCaring, and DonorsChoose.**