Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
200 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

ADVISORY OPINION OF THE ETHICS PANEL

School Commissioner [Redacted] requested an advisory opinion from this Panel on 16 May 2019. The request is centered on his role as a special advisor to [Redacted], a role that ended on 2 January 2019. Commissioner [Redacted]'s primary responsibility was to “plan and implement two place-based strategies designed to improve the neighborhoods around East Baltimore and Homewood Campuses.”

In that role, Commissioner [Redacted] devoted much time to the East Baltimore Development Initiative that included construction of a new school. Due to funding the school portion had to be owned by a public entity. While the District owns these spaces, the [Redacted] in partnership with [Redacted] operates [Redacted], a contract school of the District.

Commissioner [Redacted] explains that he was “de-facto” project manager for [Redacted] that will be co-located with the school.

Commissioner [Redacted] was subsequently brought on as a consultant for [Redacted] to help manage a variety of projects. The request stems from questions regarding an MOU with the District that is subject to Board action. Commissioner [Redacted] also offered that he is a [Redacted] Board Member”.

This Panel has reviewed this request and copies of emails that were sent to Commissioner [Redacted] from District officials. The Panel feels that while there could be appearance of a conflict i.e.; Prestige of Office, Commissioner [Redacted] has taken all necessary steps to include “having no role in whatever form the transaction takes between the school district or [Redacted]”. We trust that is the case and as such Commissioner [Redacted] role does not violate the Ethics Policy.

Date: 10 June 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Flacks
Chairman
Ethics Panel