ADVISORY OPINION
OF THE
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
ETHICS PANEL

The panel is issuing this advisory opinion pursuant to Section III(B)(5) of the Code of Ethics which provides that any Board member, employee or other person subject to the provisions of this policy may request the Panel for an advisory opinion concerning the application of this policy.

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, the Panel discussed the request from [redacted] Baltimore City Public Schools

- Prior to participation in the [redacted] conference in [redacted] has been invited by the [redacted] to attend an in-person meeting which is unrelated to conference [redacted] is attending. The [redacted] is sponsored by the US Department of Energy Better Buildings Programs.

- The Department of Energy is a cabinet-level department of the United States Government concerned with the United States policies regarding energy. This entity does not do business or seek to do business with City Schools

- The [redacted] program is offering a [redacted] honorarium for public sector partners to attend the in-person meeting to offset costs to attend (travel, etc).

- City Schools will pay for [redacted] travel and expenses to [redacted] would use the honorarium at the two Net Zero schools to educate the students about the schools and their unique elements that make them Net Zero.

Based on the facts provided, the panel concludes that [redacted] may accept the honorarium as participation in this meeting does not violate Section III.C.6.d.(1) of the Code of Ethics as the Department of Energy does not qualify as doing business with City Schools per Section II.D. The panel approves of this honorarium if it is used towards the activities at the Net Zero schools mentioned above.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as presented. The Panel expresses no opinion as to matters that exist that may now or in the future that have not been presented. Panel decisions are based on a case-by-case examination of the relevant factual information and applicable regulations. In this particular case, the decision was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Flacks, Ethics Panel Chair

16 May 2018