

STAFF GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

Gifts:

Whereas it is the policy of the Brandon Valley School District to promote and enhance the quality of social, economic and cultural opportunities for every child regardless of their background, it behooves the enactment of a policy regarding the giving and receiving of gifts within the school institution as based on the following rationale:

1. There is the inherent problem of students vying with each other in the giving of gifts to district employees.
2. Students may easily suffer embarrassment caused by lack of money for employee gifts or because of parental opposition.
3. There is danger in using the size and price of the gift as a prestige factor among their peers.
4. Generally, public employees frown on gifts as not being compatible with the intentions of an educational institution.

No student or family should have to suffer personal insecurity, anxiety, or embarrassment at a time of the year when all families have to make critical judgments as to the matter of gifts.

In the same vein, district employees should not present gifts to students. This does not include "token gifts or treats" for "special" occasions. The same type of problem can arise with employee giving different valued gifts and the personal ability of employees to purchase gifts, etc. It would be quite appropriate for the employees of a building to collectively determine the "treat" for their students at certain times of the year. This exchange of minor gifts on major holidays will be permitted on a voluntary basis for "special" occasions under the administrative guidelines established by building principals and department supervisors. Only "reasonable" exchanges will be allowed by these guidelines.

At the secondary level, the policy provides for the allowance of small gifts of remembrances to the sponsor, coach, or directors at the completion of an activity. It can only be given in the name of a "group" with no listing of names, etc. of individual contributors. Monies for these gifts, if any, cannot be taken from the funds of any group held in school activity funds.

Holiday cards, letters of appreciation and other such remembrances are permissible, and any delivery of gifts to the home does not come under the jurisdiction of the school district.

This policy is made simply to insure that the whole school community – staff, students, parents, -- recognize the responsibility of the school district in protecting the children of all people from the possibilities of anxiety and insecurity on such matters.

The presentation of gifts to, and the arrangement of social affairs for, employees leaving the system for reasons other than retirement will be governed by the following policy:

1. Each building principal or department head will appoint, or the employees may volunteer, for a small social committee to plan social affairs such as teas and luncheons.
2. Any gifts to be presented to departing employees by their respective groups will be part of the discretion of the group involved.

Solicitations:

The superintendent will annually approve all solicitations that are to be permitted in the schools. No organization may solicit funds of staff members in the schools, nor may anyone distribute flyers or other materials related to fund drives through schools, without the approval of the superintendent.

Employees may not be engaged in the sale of products to the schools, even if the proceeds of such sales are intended for charitable or civic purposes; nor will staff members collect any money nor distribute any fund-raising literature without the express approval of the superintendent.

(Adoption date: October 25, 1982)
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CROSS REFS.: JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations
 KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools