Board Policy C-6: Community Donations, Contributions, and Gifts

REFERENCES

C-6: Administrative Procedures, Community Donations, Contributions, and Gifts
20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments
IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions
Utah Code Ann. §53E-3-403, Establishment of Public Education Foundations
Utah Code Ann. §63G-6a-101, et seq., Utah Procurement Code
Utah Code Ann. §67-16-1, et seq., Utah Public Officers’ and Employees’ Ethics Act
Utah Admin. Code R277-113, LEA Fiscal Policies and Accountability

THE POLICY

The Salt Lake City School District Board of Education recognizes that fundraising efforts, donations, gifts, sponsorships, and public support vary among schools. To address this issue, the board is committed to the appropriate distribution of unrestricted funds and the management of donations and gifts to ensure that the educational opportunities for all students are equal and fair. The board encourages and supports community and business partnerships that enhance and supplement the district’s education program. The board also encourages citizens to contribute to this effort directly by volunteering their time, expertise, energy, and financial support to the district and its schools.

Additionally, the board has established the Salt Lake Education Foundation (SLEF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to seek and appropriately manage donations, gifts, community partnerships, and contributions for the benefit of our schools. Any organization or individual wishing to make a donation, either monetary or in-kind, is encouraged to make such donation through SLEF. Donations and gifts may be directed to the district, one of its programs, or a specific school, program, or service. All donations, contributions, and gifts become the legal property of the district.

Recognizing that donations are a tremendous support for our many athletic programs, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, the board allows authorized booster clubs to solicit and accept donations on behalf of such programs. All booster club donations must be processed through the affiliated school in order to ensure their proper accounting, custody, expenditure and allocation. The board understands that private gifts and donations could potentially alter the equivalence of benefits required to be provided to men’s and women’s athletics, academics, and training as required by Title IX. For that reason, the district reserves the right to decline or restrict donations or gifts that might result in gender inequality or a violation of Title IX.

The purpose of this policy is to enrich and facilitate student success by supporting and enhancing publicly funded educational programs with donations, contributions, and gifts while adequately safeguarding public funds, providing accountability, and ensuring compliance with all state and federal laws.

The district has set forth its specific processes for implementing this board policy through the accompanying administrative procedures.