



**ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115
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**ADVISORY OPINION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION ETHICS PANEL**

The Ethics Panel (“Panel”) issues this advisory opinion pursuant to Board Policy No. 0107, Section IV (A)(7), which provides that “[a]ny official, employee or other person subject to this Policy may request an advisory opinion from the Panel concerning the application of this Policy.” This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as presented. The Panel expresses no opinions as to matters that may arise now or in the future that have not been presented. Panel opinions are based on a case-by-case examination of the relevant information and applicable regulations.

On August 22, 2024, the Panel received a request for an Advisory Opinion from [REDACTED]. The ethics panel had been without the quorum required to respond to Ms. [REDACTED] request for an advisory opinion until September 1, 2025. The panel has now achieved quorum and responds to Ms. [REDACTED] request. The question before the Panel is whether it was acceptable, per Board Policy No. 0107, for an employee of the Prince George’s County public school system (“PGCPS”) to have participated in a speaking engagement in their personal capacity after the engagement was publicized during an annual conference which the employee attended in their official capacity.

According to Ms. [REDACTED] she attended the annual California Association of Black School Educators (CABSE) conference and briefly discussed a book signing event with another conference attendee during a networking conversation, when an organizer of the conference overheard her speaking and later made an announcement about the book signing to conference attendees. According to Ms. [REDACTED] she did not request or solicit advertisement of her personal book signing event during her participation in the annual conference where she appeared in her private capacity. In addition Ms. [REDACTED] contends that there is no violation of Board Policy No. 107, because she did not make any book sales at the conference, her books do not broach the topic of education, nor did she have any advertising materials with her at the conference. Ms. [REDACTED] also mentioned that the book signing event was not paid with any PGCPS funds nor is her PGCPS title associated with the event.

The Panel finds that Ms. [REDACTED] participation in a pre-planned book signing which was publicized at an annual conference without her prior knowledge or consent does not present a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict. Board Policy No. 107, Section IV(B)(5) pertains to the use of prestige of office for private gain. In this instance, Ms. [REDACTED] did not have any merchandise for sale at the conference, nor did she use her official title as [REDACTED] to advertise or publicize her private book signing. Given these facts, it is the Panel’s opinion that Ms. [REDACTED] did not experience any private gain by participating in the book signing event after it was publicly announced at the CABSE conference.

For the reasons mentioned above, the Panel concludes that there is no violation under Board Policy No. 0107.



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Date: November 7, 2025
Advisory Opinion 25-01

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Symone Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Symone M. Stone
Chair, Ethics Panel