



## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

MARK LAPLACA, Board Chair

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**To:** Town Council, Matt Hart  
**From:** Mark LaPlaca, on behalf of the Mansfield Board of Education  
**CC:** Fred Baruzzi  
**Date:** June 22, 2012  
**Subject:** Code of Ethics

At our meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012, the Board of Education by consensus directed me, as Board Chair, to communicate the following to the Town Council and Town Manager:

- The Mansfield Board of Education agrees with the Town Council that a Code of Ethics should be applied to all town employees, including BOE employees.
- Since the law is, at best, unclear as to whether or not a municipality has the authority to regulate BOE employees through an ethics ordinance, the Board, as previously communicated through our attorney, intends to adopt a parallel policy to the town's ethics ordinance.
- The Board's Policy Committee has reviewed the town's ethics ordinance and recommended to the full Board to adopt a policy identical to the town's new ethics ordinance with the following changes:
  - Minor language revisions where necessary to specify that the policy only applies to BOE employees and not all town employees.
  - Under the section Definitions, after the definition of Gift, there is a list of items entitled "a gift does not include" – the recommendation is to change the very last bullet point in that list to the following:

"Gifts in-kind of nominal value tendered on gift-giving occasions generally recognized by the public."

This difference from the town's ordinance is meant to accommodate long-standing, appropriate and educationally valued practices with regard to gift giving. It is important to note that the proposed ethics policy prohibits the solicitation of gifts, the acceptance of gifts intended to influence the judgments or actions of school employees, and gifts of inappropriately large value.

- The Board agreed, by consensus, to all of the above, and intends to vote on the policy at our next meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board respectfully requests that the Town Council remove the language including BOE employees from the town ordinance in order to remove any possible confusion or potential legal issues.

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

**DATE:** 6/22/2012

**CC:** TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT,  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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We are writing as advisory committees who all have constituents who are dealing with public transportation issues from a number of different perspectives. While each of the groups that we represent has unique needs, we believe that the core issue that they are struggling with relates to the lack of an integrated municipal policy on public transportation. While the Town successfully supports a number of valuable transportation initiatives including Dial-A-Ride, the WRTD fixed route bus, and the Senior Center's volunteer driver program, there is no single entity that coordinates these efforts and ensures that the broad public transportation needs of Mansfield residents are being met. We believe that as an advisory committee to the Town Council that is charged with addressing this area of public policy, you are the group that is in the best position to advance this issue. To that end, we would like to send representatives from each of our committees to meet with you to discuss our concerns and interests. Prior to that meeting we would encourage you to address the following questions:

1. To what extent does the Transportation Improvement Plan that is part of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development serve as a guide to transportation planning, and how is this being monitored?
2. As a strategic plan, does Mansfield 2020 provide guidelines for public transportation initiatives, and if it does, who is responsible for implementing this?
3. How can we best work effectively with your committee to advance these concerns?

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.