The Board is committed to conducting the purchasing function in an ethical manner. The Board's purchasing goals and principles will not be compromised by individuals motivated by personal gain.

The Board and its officers, agents, and employees are subject to the laws governing conflicts of interest in furnishing supplies to the Board and the use of confidential information.

No Board member or officer, agent, or employee involved in the purchasing function may do any of the following:

1. accept any gift, favor, reward, service, or promise of reward, including a promise of future employment, in exchange for recommending, influencing, or attempting to influence the award of a contract with the Board.

2. accept trips or meals from contractors, subcontractors, or suppliers, except gifts or favors of nominal value or meals furnished at banquets.

3. solicit or accept any gift or donation from an E-rate service provider in violation of federal gifting rules.

The school system's cost estimate for any public contract is confidential prior to bidding or completion of other competitive purchasing processes. The identity of contractors who have obtained proposals for bid purposes for a public contract is confidential until the bids are opened in public and recorded in the Board minutes. Any employee who divulges confidential information to any unauthorized person will be subject to disciplinary action.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that all affected personnel are aware of Board policy requirements and applicable laws. Any individual aware of any violation of this policy or applicable laws should report such violation to the superintendent, or, if it involves the superintendent, to the Board chairperson.

Legal References: G.S. 14-234, -234.1; 133-32, -33; Attorney General Opinion requested by L.W. Lamar regarding G.S. 133-32, the Applicability to Attorneys and Law Firms Providing Professional Services to Local Boards of Education, dated May 13, 1993; 47 C.F.R. 54.503; FCC Sixth Report and Order 10-175

Cross References: Board Member Conflict of Interest (policy 2121), Bidders' List (policy 6441/9121), Employee Conflict of Interest (policy 7730)

Adopted: