Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City MD 21042

ETHICS PANEL

APPLICATION TO PROVIDE AN ADVISORY OPINION

I(we) hereby request an Advisory Opinion relative to the Ethics Regulations regarding the following:

(Set forth detailed statement of facts.)

I will be [redacted] from HCPSS on August 31, 2021. After [redacted] I will be providing HR consulting services to the Howard County Administrators' Association (HCAA). As the current [redacted] I have represented the Board of Education in [redacted] for the past [redacted] years. [redacted] the current collective bargaining agreement with the HCAA will expire on June 30, 2022. [redacted]

(Use additional pages as necessary.)

I(we) hereby declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this document and any attachment(s) are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge, information, and belief.

REQUESTER(S)

[redacted]

(TYPE/PRINT)

[redacted]

(TYPE/PRINT) (SIGNATURE)

(TYPE/PRINT) (SIGNATURE)

ADDRESS: [redacted]

Telephone [redacted]

July 21, 2021
Date submitted

Form #4 6/5/84, rev. 12/84, 9/90

Further, any discussions regarding between myself and the Board occur in closed sessions and even after I believe I am obligated to keep the contents of those meetings confidential.

After having reviewed the Ethics Regulations, I was unclear as to whether or not Section VII, *Prohibitions* (below) applies to my situation. Specifically, the wording is not clear as to whether this statement pertains solely to "former" Board members OR to "former" Board members, Superintendents and employees.

> "Except as permitted by a ruling in Section XI (Exemptions) of these regulations, current or former Board members, Superintendents, or employees will not assist or represent another party other than the Board of Education for compensation in a case, or other specific matters involving the Board if the matter is one in which they significantly participated while with the school system."

I believe Section VII applies only to "former Board members" as Section VI *Prohibited Conduct and Interests* indicates it applies to "officials", which by the definition included in the Regulations "means a member of the board of education, an employee of the school board or the school system, and the superintendent." It does not apply to former employees.

Likewise, there is no reference to former employees anywhere in the Regulations and Section XII *Sanctions* only mentions "any Board member, Superintendent, or an employee".

As noted above, I do not believe the Ethics Regulations (Section VII) will pertain to me, however I believe it best to obtain an advisory opinion to quell any questions and/or appearance of impropriety.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.