

Responses to Ethics Committee Opinion

File 2817

Lauren Ramirez

School Board Member

District 5 | Flagler Schools

Response to Ethics Committee – September 10, 2025

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Dear Ethics Committee,

Thank you very much for the time and attention you have given to reviewing File 2817. I genuinely appreciate the effort that has gone into preparing the draft responses and organizing the questions for clarity.

I would like to express my agreement with the staff's draft responses to **Questions 2–5** as written.

For **Question 1**, however, I believe that **Version 1B** most accurately reflects my business and circumstances. My business does not align with the tutoring or camp-type services described in Version 1A. Unlike those models, my services do not involve ongoing, repeated relationships with clients. Instead, my business model more accurately operates as follows:

- Clients register for short, defined services that are typically completed in a single session or over a few days.
- Particularly for clients who are minors, participation is generally a one-time experience. They are not recurring clients, and there is no ongoing private relationship.
- I do not ask where a client attends school or resides; enrollment is anonymous beyond standard registration information.
- As the business owner, typically, I am not the one directly working with clients; I oversee the business operations, and my employees are the ones who deliver the services.

Because of this, my business is more appropriately compared to the “restaurant example” cited in the draft, where transactions are brief, limited, and not tied to the client’s identity or future interactions. In fact, clients who are minors are more likely to return regularly to a restaurant than they are to repeat a service at my business.

For these reasons, Version 1B provides a more accurate and fair assessment of my situation. It correctly recognizes that my business model does not create the type of ongoing or recurring relationships that could present a prohibited conflict of interest.

Thank you again for your consideration and for your ongoing efforts to strike a balance between the importance of ethics in public service and the realities of small business ownership.



Lauren Ramirez
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