

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES JUNE 1, 2021

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on the above date via teleconference. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Chair; Candace Antwine, and Melissa Ellis. Drake Smith was absent. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Maneka Monk, Senior Manager of Communications; Walter Federowicz, Internal Audit; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Also present were staff members Lisa Seaman-Crawford, Director of Facilities and Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer. The CAC representative was Martin Egna.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the May 4, 2021, committee meeting. Dr. Tobin noted that Mr. Smith was absent at the May 4, 2021 meeting. The amended minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy Discussion

Dr. Tobin asked if item JAA could be moved up to discuss prior to IFQ. The members agreed by consensus.

JAA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas: Ms. Ortiz reviewed the amendments that were approved by the committee at the previous meeting. There were no questions on the policy, but Board members had questions about the regulation. Please see below.

IFQ – Home Schooling: Ms. Ortiz explained that the policy was being amended to align with language in State regulations. She also explained that the revisions do not change the Home Instruction Program itself. Ms. Ellis asked a question regarding the addition of the language “receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in public schools to children of the same age.” Ms. Ortiz explained that this language comes directly from COMAR. Ms. Antwine asked a question. Ms. Ortiz responded. Mr. Burns suggested that language in the Purpose section be swapped with language in the Issue section. Members agreed. Ms. Ortiz will make the change. Board members then had questions about the regulation. Please see below.

FYI Only – Regulation

JAA-RA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas: Ms. Antwine questioned the April 30th deadline and Mr. Szachnowicz responded that this required by law. Ms. Ellis had concerns with the term “school” impacted rather than “geographical area” impacted. Ms. Ortiz responded. The application process will allow those who may lie in an area impacted to weigh-in. Ms. Ellis asked that the selection of applicants could at least attempt to include various geographical representatives. Mr. Szachnowicz responded. Mr. Burns also responded and shared information regarding recent State Board of Education decisions on redistricting. Mr. Burns also stated that geographic area is already considered but suggested potential language to clarify. Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Szachnowicz will consider this suggested language. Dr. Tobin added to the response.

Ms. Antwine asked if military communities specifically will be considered as a representative for the committees. Mr. Szachnowicz responded. He and Ms. Ortiz will look at this. Dr. Tobin suggested we continue the discussion regarding Military representation at the next meeting.

Ms. Ellis pointed out section D.2.e. has a consistency issue with the language. Mr. Szachnowicz will work with Ms. Ortiz to clean up the language. Ms. Ellis would like to see language added regarding automatic countywide redistricting review to include 1.) a year after the GDP, 2.) new high school, and 3.) review of the census. Mr. Mosier asked a clarifying question. Ms. Ellis responded. Mr. Burns also asked a clarifying question. Ms. Ortiz, Mr. Burns and Mr. Szachnowicz will review the procedures and the language.

The committee agreed to bring back the accompanying policy to discuss at the next committee meeting.

IFO-RA – Home Schooling: Ms. Ellis had questions about the language in the regulation regarding the and “review and verification” of the notification. Ms. Ortiz provided sample clarifying language to better align with COMAR and will make the revisions. Ms. Antwine asked about the AACPS review to ensure the child is not falling behind. Ms. Ortiz explained that AACPS may conduct up to three reviews a year to ensure that home instruction is being conducted in accordance with COMAR. Ms. Ellis asked about the three annual reviews. Ms. Ortiz explained that they are authorized in COMAR. There was discussion about a parent’s option to allow the child to take standardized tests. Mr. Burns shared some case law history.

Ms. Ellis moved to send the accompanying policy to first reader at the June 16th meeting; Ms. Antwine seconded. The committee approved by consensus.

GAC-RA – Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco-Free Work Environments: There was no discussion about the proposed revisions.

Good of the Order

Good of the Order: The Policy Committee will meet for a final meeting on July 6th at 11:00AM. JAA will be on the agenda. The Committee will also review outstanding 2020-2021 policies.

Adjourn: 5:06 p.m.