

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES AUGUST 31, 2021

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date via teleconference. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Chair; Bunmi Omisore, and Melissa Ellis. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Jackie Money, Administrative Associate to the Board. The CAC representative was Julie Ann Halick.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the July 6, 2021, committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy to Review

BBE – Board Committees: Ms. Ortiz spoke about making the Equity Committee a standing committee. Mrs. Ellis suggested that the Board see the work of the committee before making it a standing committee as Ms. Omisore is the committee chair and has not yet held her first meeting. Mr. Burns emailed suggested language changes to Ms. Ortiz and Dr. Tobin moments before the meeting began. Mr. Burns stated that the suggested language would better parallel the language between the committees. Ms. Ortiz let the committee know that the language came directly from what is on the AACPS website and other Board documents. Dr. Tobin agreed that there should be parallel verbiage throughout the committees. Ms. Omisore is currently working to develop the agenda for the September 14, 2021 Equity Committee meeting and asked what needs to be done to make the committee go from ad hoc to standing. Mr. Burns explained the difference between ad hoc and standing. Dr. Tobin stated that she does not feel that they are in a position to vote on this policy at this time. Mrs. Ellis agreed and stated that there will need to be a well-documented startup of the Equity Committee before it becomes a standing committee of the Board. Dr. Tobin moved to table the policy so additional changes can be made and that the policy be brought back to the next policy committee meeting scheduled for October 4, 2021. Mrs. Ellis seconded. The Committee agreed by consensus. Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Burns will discuss suggested language changes.

JR – Administration of Medical Cannabis: Ms. Ortiz explained that policy JR – Administration of Medical Cannabis is required by State law and that the policy is verbatim from the Maryland State Department of Education guidelines that were issued in accordance with State law. Mr. Burns asked if there was anything mentioned in the State law about students who are emancipated. Ms. Ortiz stated that emancipated students were not addressed in State law so she would be concerned about adding it to the policy, but it may be possible to be added to the regulation. She will look into this. Mr. Burns agreed. Dr. Tobin moved to send policy JR – Administration of Medical Cannabis to the full Board. Mrs. Ellis seconded. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Policy Discussion

Symbols of Hate: Ms. Ortiz gave an overview and explained that there could be a stand-alone policy to address symbols of hate or perhaps Policy KG – Violence and Vandalism could be updated to include symbols of hate. She discussed the 2021 legislation on symbols of hate, the Board’s letter of support for the legislation, and current Maryland law regarding hate crimes. Mrs. Ellis felt that it could be added to the existing policy. Dr. Tobin agreed and asked Ms. Ortiz if there was an important reason to separate. Ms. Ortiz responded and said there is no reason why it could not be added to an existing policy but suggested that the policy may need to be

renamed. Dr. Tobin was concerned about having too many policies. Ms. Omisore agreed that adding to an existing policy would be best and asked Ms. Ortiz how specific the symbols of hate will be and expressed that the policy should include others. Mrs. Ellis expressed that she would feel uncomfortable with it being broad. Ms. Ortiz explained that it would be impossible to name every symbol of hate but referred to language in the 2021 legislation that may allow for the inclusion of other symbols of hate while also meeting constitutional standards. The “Symbols of hate may include...”. Mr. Burns shared his concern about adding language to an existing policy. He is concerned about the impact on other policies and potential need for alignment. He is also concerned about the new language getting lost in an existing policy. Mrs. Ellis stated again that she felt that this should be added to an existing policy in a stand-alone section. Ms. Ortiz indicated that she would look at potential policies and ensure that whatever is added regarding symbols of hate is not lost within that policy.

FYI Only - Regulation

IFC – RA – Physical Education: Ms. Ortiz explained that the regulation has been updated to align with State regulations.

JCC – RAB – Use of Tobacco by Students: Ms. Ortiz explained that the regulation was updated to clean up the language.

JH – RA – Student Records: Ms. Ortiz explained that the regulation was updated to align with the Maryland student records manual and to clean up the language.

Good of the Order

Good of the Order: The next Policy Committee Meeting will be October 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 4:00 p.m.