

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES NOVEMBER 2, 2021

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Chair; Melissa Ellis, Board President; Gloria Dent; and Bunmi Omisore. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Walter Federowicz, Director of Internal Audits; Jodi Risse, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services; Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Also present was Shawn McAteer, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes from the October 4, 2021, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

*Policy to Review*

**JECAA – Students with a Known Food Allergy:** Ms. Ortiz provided a summary of the work currently being conducted by the school system as it relates to students with known food allergies, including policies AE – Wellness and JECA – Students with Known Anaphylactic Allergies or Who are Perceived to be Having Symptoms of Anaphylaxis and accompanying regulations. She explained that the new policy is consistent with the coordinated approach already conducted by the school system. The aim of this new policy to consolidate existing practices and resources in an easily identifiable location. Ms. Risse agreed that the language reflects the coordinated approach in use by Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Mr. McAteer, on behalf of the CAC, presented a draft policy for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee discussed the CAC’s role in the Board’s policy making process as there was a little bit of confusion as to whether the CAC should draft policy. It was explained that the CAC’s input is important but there is not an expectation that the CAC draft actual policy. Ms. Ortiz specified that the CAC could provide sample language, policy examples, or best practices in its policy reports to the Board as opposed to drafting actual policy. Ms. Ortiz indicated that she would review the CAC’s proposed policy.

Ms. Ellis requested that the issue statement be amended to reflect that food allergies are an issue of health more so than an issue of education. Ms. Ortiz suggested adding the word “also” in the first sentence for clarification. The Committee agreed.

The Committee was unanimous in their vote to move the policy to the full Board for first reading on November 17, 2021.

### *Discussion Only*

**EG – Naming School Facilities:** Ms. Ortiz provided a summary and background of the proposed revisions to the policy. Mr. Burns suggested that the policy be amended to remove the ability to revoke the name of a facility. Ms. Ellis agreed with the suggested edits from Mr. Burns and asked the reasoning for not naming a facility after an individual who has been deceased for less than 3 years. Ms. Ortiz responded indicating that the language is consistent with existing policy and practice and that other school districts have similar policies. Mr. Mosier clarified that it allows emotions to wane after the passing of an individual. Mr. Mosier indicated that in the past the revoking of a name and the renaming process have been separate. Mr. Burns responded that he believes the Board should not revoke the name of a facility without considering renaming soon thereafter. Mr. Mosier asked Mr. Burns for clarification regarding the use of term rename instead of revoke. Ms. Omisore asked whether the policy should state that a facility cannot be named after an individual who has been deceased for longer than 3 years. Ms. Dent requested clarification from Mr. Burns as to whether the Board must revoke the name of a facility in order to rename it. Mr. Burns clarified that he believes revoking is a part of the renaming process.

There was conversation regarding whether the policy should simply prohibit the naming of facilities after individuals. Dr. Tobin expressed concern that it may be inequitable to remove the Board's power to name facilities after individuals in the future. Dr. Tobin suggested the Committee take until the November 30, 2021, Committee meeting to review and consider the policy. She requested that the policy be revised to reflect the discussion at the meeting.

Ms. Dent asked if research has been conducted on the names of current facilities named for individuals to identify any issues or tension. Ms. Ortiz responded that she was not aware of any such effort.

### *Good of the Order*

**Good of the Order:** None

Adjourn: 3:59 p.m.