

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES FEBRUARY 1, 2022

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Gloria Dent, Chair; Joanna Tobin, Board President; Melissa Ellis; 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; Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. The CAC representative was Shawn McAteer.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Dent opened the meeting with approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2022, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

*Policies to Review*

**EH – Emergency Plans:** Ms. Ortiz reminded the Committee that this policy was returned to the Policy Committee by the Board after second reading in order to solicit feedback from the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM recommended the following policy changes: (1) remove references to pandemic; (2) incorporate references to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MEMA) guidelines and best practices; and (3) reference applicable Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) and School Crisis and Emergency Management Plans (SCEMP). Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Szachnowicz recommended against incorporating FEMA and MEMA guidelines and best practices or referencing COOP and SCEMP in this policy. Mr. Szachnowicz noted that AACPS does not have its own COOP, AACPS is included in the County’s COOP. The school system’s SCEMP is addressed in the accompanying regulation. Dr. Tobin asked whether the policy addresses the continuity of governance for the Board; Mr. Szachnowicz and Ms. Ortiz recommended that the Board Handbook would be the most appropriate place to address that issue, not Policy EH. The Committee voted to: (1) remove the references to pandemic in the policy as recommended by OEM and (2) clarify AACPS’ efforts and coordination as to planning, preparation, and response rather than referencing specific emergency management plans. The committee approved by consensus to bring the policy back to the Board.

**BCB – Public Comment at Board Meetings:** Ms. Ortiz discussed the changes made since the Committee reviewed the policy at the last meeting, including amending the issue statement to reflect the Boards’ commitment to equitable community participation and current practices regarding public comment. Mr. Mosier suggested that the policy be amended to reflect that public comment can be submitted through the Board’s website. The Committee adopted this suggestion. Mr. Federowicz noted he did not see any mention of virtual testimony. Mr. Mosier suggested adding language to section C.2. “in a variety of ways.” The Committee agreed to commit to providing public comment in a variety of ways. The committee moved the policy to first reading on February 16.

**BI – Board Evaluation:** Ms. Ortiz discussed the changes made since the Committee reviewed the policy at the last meeting. Ms. Ortiz removed language regarding minimum training hours for Board members. She reminded the Committee that this policy is being amended at the request of Ms. Corkadel to include recommendations made in the Gibson *Performance Audit for Anne Arundel County Public Schools* and best practices from the National School Boards Association regarding board evaluations. The committee moved by consensus to bring the policy to the full Board for first reading at the February 16 meeting.

**Good of the Order:** Ms. Ortiz indicated that several policies that are forthcoming are being amended due to changes in State law and requirements set by the Maryland State Department of Education.

**Adjourn:** 4:12PM