

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES APRIL 5, 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; 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; Walter Federowicz, Director of Internal Audits; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Dent opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the February 28, 2022, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy to Review

JT – Registered Student Sex Offenders – Entry onto School Property: Ms. Ortiz introduced the policy and explained that this new policy is the result of State law passed in 2021 and the recent MSDE model policy. The law states that a student who is a registered sex offender cannot enter onto the property of an elementary or secondary school; however, local education agencies (LEAs) are responsible for providing these student sex offenders with an equitable, high-quality education. Additionally, the law requires that LEAs establish clear procedures for (1) clear and transparent communication with the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), (2) accommodation for the educational needs of and provision of pathways for the student to meet graduation requirements within the same timeframe as the student’s peers, and (3) planning for the student to return to school environment if the student is no longer registered as a sex offender and is still enrolled in the local school system.

Mrs. Dent asked about how schools are notified a student is a registered sex offender. Mr. Burns asked Ms. Ortiz if the process for students returning to school after being a registered sex offender is the same for those returning after a reportable offense. Ms. Ortiz responded that the processes would be similar, except that a reportable offense is not a reason to remove the child from the school. Mr. Federowicz asked how this policy would apply to non-AACPS students. Ms. Ortiz responded that under current law, registered sex offenders cannot be on school property.

The committee approved by consensus to move the policy to first reading at the April 20, 2022 meeting.

Policy for Discussion Only

AE-Wellness: Ms. Ortiz provided an update to the Committee regarding the Board’s request to create a wellness lens in Policy AE - Wellness. Staff suggested that the accompanying regulation be revised to create a wellness lens that will replace the existing MSDE wellness scorecard that is currently under review. The revised wellness lens will incorporate the MSDE

wellness scorecard requirements along with recommendations from the CDC. Ms. Ortiz will bring revised policy language to the Committee at its next meeting. The wellness lens and regulation will be finalized prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year to allow for a comprehensive review by the Wellness Council. Dr Tobin inquired about the current policy's reference to childhood obesity. Ms. Ortiz will look into this language to determine if it is still required.

Good of the Order: Ms. Ortiz will bring in coming meetings policies which need updating due to changes in State requirements. These policies include BAF – Ethics the policy addressing Title IX. Mr. Burns and Ms. Howell will update Ms. Ortiz of the recent suggestions by the Boards Ethics Panel.

Adjourn: 3:43PM