

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES MARCH 7, 2023
(APPROVED)

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Gloria Dent and Joanna Tobin. Melissa Ellis and Zachary McGrath were absent. Staff members present were Grace Wilson, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Masa Conteh, Legislative and Policy Support Specialist; Dan Reagan, Director of Internal Audits; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes from the January 31, 2023, Committee Meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum of Board members in attendance. The Policy Committee will review the January 31, 2023, minutes at the next Committee meeting.

Regulations

IID-RA – GRADUATION ACTIVITIES: Regulation IID-RA accompanies Policy IID – Graduation Activities. There are no recommended edits to the policy. However, the Office of School Performance recommended revisions to the regulation to promote consistency among high schools as it relates to graduation activities, including proms, prom breakfasts, senior awards ceremonies, athletic awards ceremonies, and graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Tobin asked what this regulation does. Ms. Wilson stated the regulation has been revised to provide guidance on the stoles, honor cords, and medals that may be worn at graduation ceremonies, and to prohibit the decoration of caps and gowns. Additionally, clarification is provided regarding which graduation ceremonies students may participate in.

JCG-RA – CARE OF PROPERTY BY STUDENTS: Regulation JCG-RA is being updated to include language required by the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) regarding restitution required by students and their families when a student violates state or local law, policy, or regulation and as a result damages property, and to reflect the current AACPS procedures. There are no recommended edits to the accompanying Policy JC – Student Conduct.

Mrs. Dent asked if there have been any comments from the public on prospective changes to policy and if so how frequently comments are provided. Ms. Wilson noted that members of the public do not frequently submit comments regarding proposed policy revisions.

Dr. Tobin asked if there is a waiver process or way to address individual family circumstances when requiring restitution. For example, if a child’s family could not afford to pay the restitution.

Ms. Wilson stated that there was no specific language in the regulation addressing this, but the regulation does allow for a school work project in place of restitution that can be used on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Dent stated that this regulation does not properly solve the issue that is at hand. She asked how the Board can address the equity issue that happens when Chromebooks are damaged.

Ms. Wilson stated that the issue will be revisited directly as it relates to Chromebooks.

Mr. Burns shared that within the COMAR regulation that deals with restitution there is a sliding scale that allows the flexibility for school administrators. He stated that there is an alternate project along with a payment plan, with reduced pricing options, that eliminates the financial burden on the student and their family.

Ms. Wilson shared that family is not required to pay the full amount of the work order or pay the full cost of the property that was damaged and in this way the regulations provide principals with flexibility to address individual student and family circumstances.

Mr. Burns asked what the notice system is for new or changing regulations to the students and their families.

Ms. Wilson shared that the Legislative and Policy Office provides regular notice to staff of policy and regulatory changes. These changes are also incorporated into the Student and Parent Handbooks published annually.

Dr. Tobin shared her belief that the information needs to be shared along with the principle regarding flexibility in requiring restitution.

Mrs. Dent stated that this regulation promotes the notion that everyone has responsibility for the product. She shared that there must be a consequence to everything and that an explanation is needed for the restitution process.

Ms. Wilson shares that she will speak with Mr. Mosier about providing notice of this regulation to the school community.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Ms. Wilson provided a brief legislative update to the Committee members.

ADJOURN: 3:26PM