

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 26, 2023  
(APPROVED)

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Melissa Ellis, Joanna Tobin, and Dana Schallheim. Staff members present were Grace Wilson, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Mychael Dickerson, Chief of Staff; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Dan Reagan, Director of Internal Audits; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Jackie Money, Associate Assistant to the Board.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Ellis opened the meeting with the approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2023, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**Policy**

**EAF – School Bus Maintenance:** Ms. Wilson explained that this policy was last revised June 20, 2012. The policy and accompanying regulation are being updated as the result of the passage of House Bill 492 from the 2023 legislative session, which allows AACPS to operate school vehicles for a period of 15 years rather than 12, unless the vehicle fails to meet applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards. This policy is also being updated to use the term “school vehicle” rather than “school bus” to capture AACPS’ use of alternative school vehicles in addition to school buses.

Mr. Burns proposed adding language to the issue statement promoting reliability in addition to student safety. The Committee approved this language by consensus.

Dr. Tobin moved that the policy go to first reading at the October 18, 2023, Board meeting; Mrs. Schallheim seconded. The Committee approved by consensus.

**FYI Only – Regulations**

**EAF-RA – School Bus Maintenance:** Ms. Wilson explained that as with the accompanying policy, this regulation is being updated to account for the passage of House Bill 492 and reflect AACPS’ use of alternative school vehicles.

**EG-RA – Naming Facilities:** Ms. Wilson explained that the language proposed by Mrs. Ellis and crafted by Mr. Mosier has been incorporated into procedure C.1. and the regulation has now been issued.

**JB-RA – Compulsory Attendance:** Ms. Wilson explained that this regulation was last revised in September of 2022 in accordance with House Bill 118, which was passed in 2022. The bill requires school systems to treat absences due to behavioral health the same as absences due to illness or a somatic health need. The regulation is being updated to provide clarity regarding continuous absences.

**Good of the Order:** Ms. Wilson stated that she shared instructions with the CAC members about the policy review and revision process and gave guidance on what they should be looking at to help them focus their review of specified policies.

**Adjourn:** 3:16 PM