

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES OCTOBER 31, 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, Dana Schallheim, and Eric Lin. Staff members present were Grace Wilson, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Maggie Gosewisch, Specialist Support: Legislation & Policy; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Dan Reagan, Director of Internal Audits; Matt Stanski, Chief Financial Officer; and Jackie Money, Associate Assistant to the Board. Michelle Koul was present on behalf of the CAC.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Ellis opened the meeting with the approval of the minutes from the September 26, 2023, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**Policy**

**DBK – Classification of Fund Balances:** Ms. Wilson explained that this policy provides authority, guidance, and limitations for determining classification and limitations on the use of fund balances. The policy was last revised in June of 2015. The policy was reviewed in October by the Board’s Budget Committee. One change was recommended by the Budget Committee and that change has been incorporated into the draft policy.

Mr. Stanski explained that this change is the result of a recommendation of the Gibson Audit. He explained that AACPS is a unique entity in that we do not have taxing authority, so the traditional fund balance targets don’t necessarily apply. There is still a desire to have targets in place, but not the typical 5 to 15% of revenue. There was a survey of school districts in Maryland and initially a range of 2 to 5% of assigned and unassigned fund balance was recommend. The Budget Committee made a recommendation to increase that range from 1 to 5% and Mr. Stanski agreed with the recommendation.

Mrs. Schallheim moved that the policy go to first reading at an upcoming meeting; Dr. Tobin seconded. The Committee approved by consensus to move the policy to the Board for consideration. Ms. Wilson stated that the policy will be brought before the entire Board at the November 15, 2023, Board meeting.

**Policy for Discussion Only**

**JQ – Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students:** Ms. Wilson explained that Policy JQ and the accompanying regulation, JQ-RA Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students, was placed on review this year at the request of the staff. After reviewing the policy and regulation, the staff determined that no changes were needed to the policy at this time.

## **FYI Only – Regulation**

**JQ-RA – Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students:** Ms. Wilson explained that the language that will be included in regulation JQ-RA, section D, providing additional guidance around the requirement to engage families regarding developing a plan to support a student in their gender identity. The regulation states that school staff shall work with the students and the student’s parents/guardians to develop an appropriate plan to accommodate and support the student and their gender identity, unless there is a genuine safety concern for the students physical, emotional, or mental health safety, as determined by the principal or principal’s designee.

Ms. Ellis expressed concerns about how staff will help those students who are concerned about their safety and well-being and those students who do not have the support of their family. Ms. Wilson explained that student services staff work with students on a case-by-case basis, but that staff could provide additional clarification.

**Good of the Order:** None

**Adjourn:** 3:26 PM