

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2024**  
**(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; Sonya McElroy, Director of Birth to Five Programs; Darren Burns, Board Legal Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Laticia Hicks 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 January 2, 2024, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**Policy**

**JK - Student Behavior Interventions – Exclusion, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint:** Ms. Wilson explained that this policy and accompanying regulation were scheduled for review as a result of changes made to State law and regulations regarding student behavior interventions, including exclusion, seclusion, and physical restraint, after the passage of HB1255 during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. This policy was last reviewed in January of 2019.

The proposed edits are only technical and add legal reference to the policy. The proposed edits do not require the full Board to review and vote. Mrs. Ellis said that she would provide notice to the full board of the review of this policy at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Schallheim moved to approve the technical edits without review by the full Board and Dr. Tobin seconded. The Committee voted to approve by consensus.

**FYI Only - Regulation**

**JK-RA – Student Behavior Interventions – Exclusion, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint:** Ms. Wilson explained that this regulation has been updated to reflect the changes made to State law and regulations regarding the use of student behavior interventions.

The following changes were made to regulation JK-RA – Student Behavior Interventions – Exclusion, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint: (1) existing definitions were revised in accordance with current law, and definitions were added for debrief and imminent, serious physical harm; (2) Procedure 1 was revised to establish that the use of both restraint and seclusion shall be consistent with an evidence-based trauma-informed crisis prevention intervention program, and that school personnel conducting an escort shall use a natural position and safe manner; (3) Procedure 3 was revised to add requirements for a setting used for exclusion and to require that school personnel provide a student in exclusion with an explanation of the behavior that resulted in the exclusion and

instructions on the behavior required to return to the learning environment; (4) Procedure 3 was also revised to require that school personnel ensure that each period of exclusion is appropriate to the developmental level of the student and the severity of the behavior and provides support to increase the student's self-regulation in order to return to the instructional setting; (5) Procedure 5 was revised to permit physical restraint to be included in a student's behavior intervention plan (BIP), Section 504 plan, or IEP to address the student's behavior in an emergency situation after certain criteria have been met; (6) all procedures regarding physical restraint were updated to outline specific information the IEP or Section 504 team must consider when reviewing or revising the student's IEP, Section 504, or BIP; (7) the procedures regarding physical restraint were also updated to require a student's 504 or IEP team to meet to discuss alternative behavioral health treatments if a student is adversely affected by the use of physical restraint; and (8) the regulation was revised in accordance with state law to require AACPS to notify MSDE after a student's 10th incident of physical restraint and every 10th incident thereafter.

Dr. Tobin inquired about the definition of the term "natural position." Ms. Wilson shared that a definition is not included in COMAR or State law. Mr. Burns noted that it may not be appropriate to define the term and State reference may have left the term undefined intentionally.

Mrs. Ellis asked how staff will be trained in the procedures outlined in the regulation given the substantive changes. Ms. Wilson stated that she will provide follow-up after consulting with staff.

Ms. Wilson will notify the Board when the policy and the regulations are finalized, and implementation begins.

**Good of the Order:** None

**Adjourn:** 3:23 PM