

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES
MARCH 5, 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; Maneka Monk, Senior Manager, Communications; Dan Reagan, Director of Internal Audits; 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 February 6, 2024, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy

KFB – Reporting Crimes and Delinquent Acts: Ms. Wilson explained that this policy was previously rescinded and is being reissued at the request of staff. Staff expressed the importance of reissuing this policy related to reporting crimes and delinquent acts per COMAR 13A.08.01.15 which requires that school officials promptly report to the responsible law enforcement agencies all delinquent acts coming to their attention whether occurring on or away from school premises. Delinquent acts are defined as offenses committed by a person who is under 18 years old which would be crimes if committed by an adult, not including conduct which has been traditionally treated as a matter of discipline to be handled administratively.

This policy would: (1) provide proper notice to staff, students, and families that there are instances when school staff are required to break confidentiality and make a report to law enforcement; (2) require a staff member to report a delinquent act or crime of violence to the principal or principal’s designee; (3) require the principal or principal’s designee to report the delinquent act or crime of violence to the appropriate law enforcement agency; and (4) authorize a staff member to report crimes other than a crime of violence that comes to their attention.

Mrs. Schallheim inquired when the old policy was rescinded. Ms. Wilson answered that the policy was rescinded in July 2018. Mrs. Schallheim also expressed concern that this policy and regulation would result in increased disciplinary actions against students. Ms. Wilson explained that the mechanism of this policy is already in regulation, so this should not result in any increase in disciplinary actions, but rather focus on community issues. Mr. Burns suggested that “school community” be included in the Issue statement to convey the community centric intentions of this policy and regulation.

Mr. Burns also expressed that any definitions relating to juvenile law may need to be updated after the legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly, as they might pass new juvenile justice laws. Ms. Wilson agreed and explained that the definitions in the regulation can be easily

updated if this is the case.

Dr. Tobin expressed that she agreed with Mrs. Schallheim's concerns related to student discipline, and stressed the importance that this policy should not lead to an increase in student arrests. Dr. Tobin also asked why the previous policy was rescinded. Ms. Wilson answered that previous staff rescinded the policy because they believed that its contents were covered by references in other policies; however, Ms. Wilson and staff did not believe that was the case.

Mrs. Schallheim also asked why the definitions were in the regulation, not the policy. Ms. Wilson explained that many definitions included in the regulation are defined by COMAR and are not subject to changes. Mr. Burns also added that regulations can be easily adapted in the case of legal changes, as they are not subject to the same administrative process as policies.

The Committee reached consensus on updating the Issue Section to include, "and the school community" in the first sentence. The Committee approved by consensus to move the policy to the full Board for consideration at the March 20, 2024, Board meeting.

FYI Only - Regulation

KFB-RA – Reporting Crimes and Delinquent Acts: Ms. Wilson explained that this is the accompanying regulation to the policy that adds additional details and provides a definition for delinquent acts and lists crimes of violence.

Mrs. Schallheim recommended that staff give consideration to language that would speak to the intent of not perpetuating existing disciplinary gaps. Ms. Wilson said that she would bring that suggestion back to staff.

Good of the Order: Mrs. Schallheim asked for an update on the policy schedule for the year. Ms. Wilson explained that currently the Committee has reviewed 8 of 36 policies and regulations.

Adjourn: 3:21 PM