

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2020

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 2:30 p.m. on the above date via teleconference. Board members present were Robert Leib, Chair; Candace Antwine, Julie Hummer, and Drake Smith. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer; Walter Federowicz, Internal Audit; Nikki Burns, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Also present was Joy Lawson of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Leib opened the meeting and proceeded with review of the minutes for the October 21, 2020 committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

*Policy to Review for Discussion Only*

**JAA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas:** Ms. Ortiz introduced the policy and then reviewed a summary document with suggested revisions received from various stakeholders, including the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Board member Ellis. Ms. Ortiz also reviewed recommendations previously discussed by the Policy Committee. Ms. Antwine noted that the current redistricting process is a good one and that she has no concern about the Redistricting Advisory Committee members not having an understanding of what is going on in the communities in order to give a sound recommendation. However, she noted concern that some areas may be underrepresented. Ms. Antwine also expressed concern that too many steps could become problematic. Ms. Hummer noted that it was impossible to represent each community. However, she commented on the importance of having a uniform selection process for the Redistricting Advisory Committee members, similar to how the CAC members are selected. She liked the idea of providing training to the Redistricting Committee members. Ms. Hummer also expressed concern over the amount of time the redistricting process takes, noting that it can cause public angst. Ms. Lawson asked about the timeline. Mr. Szachnowicz gave a general overview of the redistricting timeline and the public participation procedures of redistricting, as well as other factors contributing to the timeline process. He mentioned that the timeline is in part due to the Board’s schedule in the months of December through March (i.e. budget, public hearings) and indicated that the Board could accelerate the timeline.

Ms. Ortiz next gave an overview of Mr. Burn’s recommendations which better align the policy with the spirit of the law. Mr. Burns commented on the importance of allowing staff to revise policies and regulations to align with State laws and regulations. Mr. Burns recommended “less is more” when adjusting language so that language aligns with State and local law. Mr. Burns appreciated the CAC’s feedback but cautioned about including too many considerations which could create unintended legal challenges in the future.

Ms. Ortiz reviewed Ms. Ellis’s recommendations. Ms. Hummer questioned the recommendation to have staff first create the redistricting plan and underscored the importance of the plan being a community lead and owned initiative. Ms. Lawson commented that the training process for community members is not done effectively which inhibits the process at large. Ms. Ortiz commented that similar language regarding the selection process for the CAC, which came from State law, could be incorporated into this policy.

Finally, there was a review and discussion of the CAC recommendations for which there was a general appreciation for the feedback.

Mr. Burns recommended that the Committee members allow Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Szachnowicz to review the proposed recommendations and work on a draft. The committee agreed to allow staff to come back with their recommendations for review and consideration at a future meeting.

*FYI Only – Regulation Amendments*

**BF-RA – Policy Setting:** Ms. Ortiz explained that updates were made to align with the Board’s recent updates to Policy BF – Policy Setting.

**IIC-RA Graduation Requirements:** Ms. Ortiz explained that the updates were made in consideration of homeless students and foster students to align with new State law.

*For the Good of the Order*

Mr. Leib thanked committee members for their time, commitment, and teamwork. Ms. Antwine and Ms. Ortiz also thanked outgoing committee members Mr. Leib, Chair and Ms. Hummer and expressed appreciation for their dedication to the Policy Committee.

Adjourn: 3:32PM