

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2020

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 2:30 p.m. on the above date via teleconference. Board members present were Michelle Corkadel, Chair; Candace Antwine, Robert Silkworth, and Drake Smith. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Walter Federowicz, Internal Audit; Nikki Burns, Legislative and Policy Support; 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:** Ms. Corkadel opened the meeting and proceeded with review of the minutes for the November 18, 2020 committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**FYI Only – Regulation Amendments**

**GCI-RA Salaries – Unit I-IV:** Ms. Ortiz discussed the updates to the language of the regulation to align with current practice. Mr. Federowicz and Mr. Silkworth asked questions. Ms. Ortiz responded.

**JEF-RA Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect:** Ms. Ortiz discussed the updates which align with State law and regulations. Specifically, the “Procedures” section was updated.

**Policy for Discussion Only**

Before discussing the proposed policy, Ms. Ortiz gave an overview of policy updates and why or what brings about a policy update or review. She reminded members that policies are within the purview of the Board and regulations are within the purview of the Superintendent. Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Burns provided additional information as to the Board’s role in policy development and the Superintendent’s role in regulation development.

**Students and Gender Identity:** This draft new policy was proposed by Board Member, Dana Schallheim. Ms. Schallheim prepared language for the committee to review and discuss.

Ms. Ortiz provided an overview of Ms. Schallheim’s recommendations and indicated that they are pretty much aligned with current AACPS guidelines on students and gender identity. Ms. Antwine moved that this policy be expedited to the Board. Mr. Burns provided legal advice to ensure the process follows the Board’s Policy Setting policy and indicated that the policy would need to follow that policy and have proper legal vetting. Mr. Smith seconded Ms. Antwine’s motion. Ms. Ortiz explained the realistic timetable for a policy to be drafted, reviewed legally, and presented to the Committee before being presented as information as a first reading to the full Board. Ms. Ortiz emphasized that AACPS guidelines already mirror current State and federal laws and MSDE guidance, and the protections already afforded by them. A policy would be consistent with this and Ms. Ortiz explained that it is important to take the time to develop a policy on this issue and indicated that she could realistically have a draft policy for the Committee to review at the March Policy Committee meeting. The Committee amended the motion that Ms. Ortiz would submit the draft policy and regulation to the Policy Committee in accordance with the Policy Setting policy and after proper legal vetting, for the March 2021 Policy Committee meeting. The Committee approved by consensus.

Ms. Lawson reviewed feedback from the CAC and noted a few areas to amend. She commented that the current guidelines in place are very similar to Ms. Schallheim’s recommendations with a few differing items. Ms. Corkadel mentioned the possibility of having one policy for employees and one policy for students and Ms.

Ortiz agreed that two separate policies would be her recommendation as this is consistent with how other policies have been developed.

After further discussion, Mr. Smith asked if information can be highlighted for the public on the policy website to allow for feedback from the public. Ms. Ortiz explained how the public is able to provide feedback by contacting her office, the Board, and through the normal policy setting process.

*For the Good of the Order*

Ms. Corkadel will meet with the new Board President, Melissa Ellis to discuss a potential public forum on the proposed policy after the March 2021 Policy Committee meeting.

Adjourn: 3:44PM