

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2020

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on the above date at the school system headquarters, 2644 Riva Road in Annapolis. Board members present were Robert Leib, Chair; Candace Antwine, Julie Hummer, and Rida Alvi. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Nikki Burns, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Walter Federowicz, Internal Audit; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Also present was Julia Howes, Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Mr. Leib opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the January 22, 2020 committee meeting, of which there were none. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy to Discuss

BK – Board Member Conduct: Ms. Ortiz reviewed the policy line by line and explained each proposed amendment she received and gave her recommendation for each amendment. The review was conducted twice. The committee agreed on most of Ms. Ortiz’s recommendations, added some additional language, and discussed some items for further clarification and consistency. Ms. Antwine recommended a title change to clarify the intent of the policy and to make a distinction between the legal and ethical portions. Mr. Mosier suggested the title “Board Member Ethics and Professional Standards.” The committee agreed. Ms. Ortiz will add additional clarifying language to the Purpose paragraph to align it with the State Ethics Commission. Board members agreed to all substantive revisions.

Board members discussed clarifying amendments, including:

Mr. Leib suggested adding “ethics and professional standards,” Mr. Mosier suggested adding “in the best interest of all students,” and Ms. Antwine recommended adding a reference to the oath of office taken by Board members. All agreed to the changes and Ms. Ortiz will amend the Issue section to include this language.

Ms. Alvi asked if the policy should be divided into two policies – one containing legal information and one containing Board handbook and contracts information. There was a discussion that the overlap of information would make this difficult. Ms. Ortiz suggested reorganizing the policy to clearly separate information regarding professional standards related to Board member responsibilities, professional standards related to school system administration, and Board member ethics as defined by State law and regulation and Board policy. Reference to Policy BAF – Ethics and Conflict of Interest and additional information specifying “fingerprint-supported background checks,” was also added to C. Position.

Mr. Leib made a motion to accept the amendments and send Policy BK back to first reading before the Board on March 4, 2020. The committee voted unanimously on the amendments and to send the policy to another first reading.

For the Good of the Order

None.

Adjourn: 4:47 p.m.