

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES May 4, 2021

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on the above date via teleconference. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Chair; Candace Antwine and Melissa Ellis. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier Chief Communications Officer; Maneka Monk, Senior Manager of Communications; Walter Federowicz, Internal Audit; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Also present were staff members Lisa Seaman-Crawford, Director of Facilities and Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer. The CAC representative was Joy Lawson.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the April 6, 2021, committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

*Policy Discussion*

**JAA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas:** Ms. Ortiz reviewed the policy, background information, and provided updates to language that are suggested. Most recently this policy was reviewed by the committee in November of 2020. Ms. Ortiz amended the policy in accordance with the suggestions from that meeting. Board members posed questions to which Ms. Ortiz responded.

The Purpose section was revised to provide clarification. The Issue section was revised to align with the spirit and intent of state law. Ms. Ellis asked whether the language in the Issue section belonged in the position section. She also had concerns and questions about the intent of the language. Ms. Ortiz clarified the intent. Mr. Burns suggested, “in light of these factors and others...” to the existing language. Dr. Tobin suggested, “for one or any of these factors...” Ms. Antwine suggested reordering the sentences. There was consensus to reorder the last two sentences in question. Ms. Ortiz indicated that she would revise the language to align with the conversation at the meeting.

Ms. Ellis moved to add language to include an application processes that is fair and transparent to section C.3. Dr. Tobin seconded. There was discussion among members and staff. The Board members approved by consensus.

Ms. Antwine asked about defining “efficiency” and suggested that C.4. also be amended to include the term “equitable.” There was a discussion. Mr. Burns suggested adding language that was already in the policy. Ms. Antwine asked Mr. Szachnowicz for his thoughts. Mr. Szachnowicz cautioned about adding terms that could have legal implications. Mr. Burns referenced recent State Board decisions regarding redistricting. Dr. Tobin moved to add “equitable” to C.4. to read “The Board commits to an equitable redistricting process and timeline that is comprehensive and efficient.” Ms. Antwine seconded. The Board members approved by consensus.

*FYI Only - Regulation*

**JAA-RA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas:** Ms. Ortiz reviewed the regulation and explained that it was amended to provide more detail regarding the redistricting process. The additional information included in the regulation was derived from information that is already provided to the public. Members posed questions.

*Good of the Order*

**Good of the Order:** Ms. Ellis brought up two concerns regarding the regulation for the committee to discuss at the next meeting. She is concerned that two members from each school on the committee for redistricting is not equitable. Ms. Ellis believes the two members from each should be selected based on geography. She also suggested that there be a review of all boundaries after 10 years for the entire county as a whole.

Mr. Federowicz had concerns about some of the wording in the regulation. Specifically, the regulation, the Definition section defines the Redistricting Advisory Committee. The revised first sentence of this definition states, “Redistricting Advisory Committee – a committee comprised of parent/guardian of students who attend schools impacted by potential redistricting.” Then in section D.3.b, the first sentence states, “the principal of each affected school shall advertise to the school community that volunteers for the Redistricting Advisory Committee are being sought...” Mr. Federowicz suggested that the terms “impacted” and “affected” be defined or clarified. His concern is that many schools could make a case that even though they are not gaining or losing students in the redistricting, they are impacted/affected by it.

Ms. Ortiz asked Mr. Federowicz to e-mail her his concerns regarding the regulation.

It was agreed that the policy would be brought back to the Policy Committee in June.

Adjourn: 5:00 p.m.