

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES JULY 6, 2021

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 11:00 a.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 Martin Egna.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes to the June 1, 2021, committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy Discussion

JAA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas: Ms. Ortiz did not have any revisions to the policy as there were no proposed revisions at the June 1st meeting. Mr. Burns e-mailed the Committee just before the meeting with some recommended revisions. Some of the recommendations were discussed. Mr. Burns recommended that sections D(2)(c)-(e) and D(4)(c)-(h) of the regulation be moved to the policy either under section C(4)(i, ii, iii, etc.), after subsection 4, or as a new 5. There was discussion and consensus. Mr. Burns suggested the “lawyers” review the language. Ms. Ellis asked a question. Mr. Szachnowicz responded. Ms. Ellis requested that the CAC put together a subcommittee similar to the LGBTQ+ to review the policy. Dr. Tobin agrees, “let’s get this policy right.” Ms. Antwine moved to move the language suggested by Mr. Burns from the regulation to the policy and continue to allow the CAC to review while still moving this policy along for the full Board to review and revise. Mr. Egna asked for clarification on what the subcommittee would do. Ms. Ellis responded. Ms. Ellis seconded Ms. Antwine’s motion. Ms. Antwine moved to add a timeline for the policy. Ms. Ellis seconded. The Committee agreed by consensus. Ms. Ortiz indicated that she may have to add or tweak some language in the regulation to account for the movement of sections to the policy. Ms. Ortiz will make revisions and share with the Policy Committee.

FYI Only - Regulation

JAA-RA – Redistricting and Attendance Areas: Ms. Ellis expressed that she wants the Superintendent’s staff to take the lead instead of the Redistricting Committee. Alex pointed out language in the regulation which states the role of the Superintendent’s staff, but Ms. Ellis still had concerns. Mr. Mosier asked what the role of the Redistricting Committee would be. Mr. Mosier and Ms. Ortiz expressed concerns about minimizing the role of the public and the Redistricting Committee – members of the public would feel as though they aren’t being listened to and the public voice is being taken away. Ms. Ortiz stated that the language needs to strike a balance. Mr. Szachnowicz responded to some technical questions about the regulation. Ms. Antwine asked about a systemwide review. Ms. Ortiz explained that a periodic systemwide review was added to the regulation based on the suggestions from the last meeting. Ms. Ortiz will make revisions and share with the Policy Committee.

Other

Status of 2020-2021 Policy Review: Ms. Ortiz provided an overview of the backlog of policies and discussed the need to get through many more policies in the upcoming school year, especially State and federally mandated policies. She will prioritize the policies that require updates due to State or federal laws or regulation beginning in September/October and will continue to review throughout the year. Mr. Burns asked that Ms. Ortiz update the Policy Committee Chair with the priorities especially if the policy calendar needs to change. There was consensus that the Committee should be able to get through legal mandates quickly.

Good of the Order

Good of the Order: The committee agreed to continue holding their meetings on the Tuesday before the first meeting of the month and remain virtual. The committee will meet beginning at 3:00PM. The meeting held in July will be for closeout purposes going forward.

Adjourn: 12:28 p.m.