

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

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Chair and Melissa Ellis, Board President. Bunmi Omisore joined the meeting later. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Walter Federowicz, Director of Internal Audits; Lisa Snead, Staff Counsel; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Shawn McAteer, Citizens Advisory Committee, was also present.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes from the August 31, 2021, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

*Policy to Review*

**AC – Nondiscrimination:** Ms. Ortiz provided a summary of the August 31, 2021, Committee discussion regarding addressing symbols of hate in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) policy; the Committee had indicated a preference to incorporate language addressing symbols of hate into existing policy. To that end, Ms. Ortiz amended Policy AC – Nondiscrimination as this policy applies to all individuals utilizing or attending AACPS and Board facilities or events. Ms. Ortiz summarized the changes made to Policy AC – Nondiscrimination, including:

- (1) The amendment of C.2. clarifying that the Board also prohibits unlawful discrimination, including discrimination based on actual or perceived gender expression or homeless status in accordance with State law;
- (2) The addition of C.4. prohibiting the use of language or symbols of hate, consistent with Supreme Court rulings regarding student First Amendment rights; and
- (3) The update C.5. referencing specific policies and regulations to be used to investigate a complaint of unlawful discrimination.

Ms. Ortiz reminded the Committee that the language regarding symbols of hate was aligned with 2021 legislation before the Maryland General Assembly which the Board supported.

Mr. Burns proposed stylistic changes and inquired about the use of the terms “forecast” and “expected” and Ms. Ortiz explained that “forecast” is referred to in several relevant court cases as well as the landmark Supreme Court case regarding student First Amendment rights. She indicated that she would once again review the case law to confirm which term should be used. Mr. Burns recommended that he and Ms. Ortiz confer on the stylistic changes. The Committee agreed to allow Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Burns to finalize stylistic changes to the policy and move this policy to the full Board for first reading on October 20, 2021.

**KG – Violence and Vandalism:** Ms. Ortiz explained that this policy has been updated, in accordance with State law, to address hate crimes as well as violence and vandalism, and to make other minor stylistic changes. Ms. Ellis asked if the policy as amended applied to violence and vandalism that occurred outside of AACPS or Board facilities. Ms. Ortiz indicated that Policy KG – Violence and Vandalism applies to related actions by an individual that occur at AACPS or Board facilities. Mr. Burns proposed additions and stylistic changes to the policy. The Committee agreed to allow Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Burns to confer on additional stylistic changes and minor revisions at their discretion and move the policy to the full Board for first reading on October 20, 2021.

**BBE – Board Committees:** Ms. Ortiz reviewed the edits made to the policy since it was last discussed at the August 31, 2021, Committee meeting. Ms. Ortiz indicated that the policy does not currently address how the chair of an ad hoc committee is to be appointed and asked the Committee for guidance. Ms. Ellis responded that the Board President, in consultation with the Board, appoints ad hoc committee membership and leadership. It was agreed to incorporate this practice into the policy. Ms. Ellis inquired whether the practice that the Board President serve as an ex officio member of each Board committee should also be incorporated into this policy. The Committee agreed to incorporate this practice into the policy as well. The Committee briefly discussed whether to establish an Audit Committee as a standing committee of the Board; however, the Committee decided not to add an additional standing committee to policy at this time. Mr. Burns suggested that section D. be removed from the policy as it regulates Board activity. After some discussion, it was decided that section D. should remain, and that language regarding collaboration with the Superintendent regarding standing committee support be added to the policy. Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Burns will confer regarding additional changes. The Committee agreed to move this policy to the full Board for first reading on October 20, 2021.

*FYI Only – Regulation*

**JAC-RA – Homeless Students:** Ms. Ortiz explained the technical changes made to the policy. No substantive or procedural changes were made.

*Good of the Order*

**Good of the Order:** None

Adjourn: 4:18 p.m.