

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2022

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Gloria Dent, Chair; Joanna Tobin, Board President; and Melissa Ellis. 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; Maneka Monk, Senior Manager of Communications; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. The CAC representative was Shawn McAteer.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Dent opened the meeting with approval of the minutes from the November 30, 2021, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Policy to Review

BI – Board Evaluation: Ms. Ortiz introduced the policy. Mrs. Corkadel requested this policy be revised to reflect the recommendations of the Gibson Performance Audit and the National School Boards Association. As noted in the Gibson Performance Audit, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) had not conducted an evaluation in several years.

Ms. Ortiz summarized the proposed policy changes, including a technical edit to the purpose paragraph and additions to the position section to indicate the Board’s commitment to supporting student achievement, when the Board’s annual audit shall be conducted, and areas, at minimum, that are to be evaluated.

Mrs. Dent and Mrs. Ellis raised concerns regarding the minimum areas to be evaluated, specifically new member onboarding and the requirement that Board members undergo a minimum of 20 hours of training each year. It was recommended that the policy be less prescriptive regarding Board member training requirements. After discussion it was determined that the policy would be brought back to the February Policy Committee meeting to allow Ms. Ortiz to make additional revisions and also allow Mrs. Dent to discuss the policy with Mrs. Corkadel and review the Gibson Performance Audit recommendations.

Policies for Discussion Only

AE – Wellness: Ms. Ortiz brought the policy to the Committee to seek guidance and clarification from the Committee. She indicated that the CAC had shared a draft policy which is similar to the existing policy. Policy AE – Wellness is aligned with State and federal law.

Mrs. Ellis requested that Policy AE be reviewed this academic year with the goal of creating a wellness lens where a whole child perspective is considered in all decisions made by the Board of Education and the school system to ensure all aspects of student wellness are considered in all

decisions. Mrs. Dent asked about references to the whole child. Mrs. Dent also asked whether the Wellness Council submitted an annual report to the Board? Ms. Ortiz indicated that the Wellness Council does submit a report and she shared that the whole child language could be included in the wellness lens policy as it is referenced in other policies and regulations. She informed the committee that the policy was most recently revised in September 2020. Mrs. Ellis stated that she sees the value in amending the current policy rather than creating a new policy and would like to add a section on wellness lens. Ms. Ortiz responded that she believes that the current policy supports this goal, but if revisions are to be made, she recommends that they be reviewed by the Wellness Council.

Ms. Ortiz indicated that she will revise the policy, share it with the Wellness Council, and bring it back to the Policy Committee for review in the spring. The Committee agreed.

BCB – Public Comment at Board Meetings: Ms. Ortiz explained that Mrs. Corkadel requested Policy BCB be reviewed by the Policy Committee this academic year in light of the changes made to the Board’s public comment procedures due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Ellis noted that the procedure outlined in C.3. is no longer Board Practice and that the policy should be revised without being too prescriptive. Dr. Tobin agreed with Mrs. Ellis; she would like to leave this and future Boards the flexibility to change the format of public comment, as necessary. Mr. Mosier concurred with Mrs. Ellis and Dr. Tobin and noted that the Gibson Performance Audit recommended that the Board should only allow public comment on action items. Mrs. Ellis was supportive of limiting public comment to action items only but does not believe that this limitation should be made in the policy. Dr. Tobin suggested including language regarding the Board’s commitment to public participation.

Ms. Ortiz reminded the Committee that there is no legal requirement for the Board to accept public comment and that, compared to other Maryland local education agencies, AACPS is very generous with opportunities for the public to provide input to the Board. Mr. Burns concurred. Ms. Ortiz will bring the policy back to the Committee at its February meeting.

FYI Only – Regulation

JR-RA – Administration of Medical Cannabis: Ms. Ortiz shared that this regulation is required by State law, aligns with Maryland State Department of Education regulations, and has been reviewed by staff with the Anne Arundel County Department of Health.

Good of the Order: None

Adjourn: 4:13PM