

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Joanna Tobin, Melissa Ellis, and Zachary McGrath. Board member Gloria Dent was absent. Staff members present were Jeanette Ortiz, Legislative and Policy Counsel; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Walt Federowicz, Internal Audit; Darren Burns, Board Counsel; Grace Fielhauer, Legislative and Policy Specialist; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Jennifer Lombardi and Tanisha Howard were present on behalf of the CAC.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Tobin opened the meeting with approval of the minutes from the June 28, 2022, Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**SY2022 - 2023 Suggested Policies to Review:** Ms. Ortiz reviewed the various policies that the Committee will review during the 2022-2023 school year. The list was compiled with input from school system staff and Board members. Ms. Ortiz noted that the list has been updated to include Policy BBF – Board Internal Auditor which was erroneously excluded. She also explained that additional policies may be added to the review list as a result of new State regulations or guidance.

*Policies*

**AC – Nondiscrimination:** Ms. Ortiz explained that Policy AC has been updated to align with 2022 House Bill 850 (HB850), Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education – Discrimination, which requires each local education agency to adopt a specific nondiscrimination policy. The language in C.2.b. – c. aligns with the new State law. Mr. Burns added that the new State law requirements adds strength to existing anti-harassment and anti-retaliation laws.

Dr. Tobin inquired if the language in the policy came directly from HB850. Ms. Ortiz responded that the language is directly from the legislation, except for the addition of the term “gender expression.” In State law, gender expression is included in the definition of gender identity. Ms. Ortiz explained that AACPS policies and regulations specify the terms gender identity and gender expression to ensure clarity.

The Committee approved by consensus that the policy move to first reading at the September 21, 2022, Board meeting.

**BAF – Ethics and Conflict of Interest:** Ms. Ortiz gave an overview of the policy’s review history. The policy was updated to align with State law passed in the 2021 General Assembly session and guidance recently issued by the State Ethics Commission addressing how ethics policies should be updated in accordance with these laws. The policy was initially brought to the Committee for review at their May 31 meeting. The Board reviewed the policy on first reading

at the June meeting and the policy was on second reading before the Board at the August meeting. As a result of questions raised by the Board, Mrs. Dent requested that the policy be brought back to the Policy Committee for additional review.

Mr. Burns proposed policy revisions to provide clarification regarding the review process complaints received under this policy. These proposed revisions include clarifying that complaints shall be submitted to the Board Office in accordance with procedures provided upon requests by the Executive Assistant to the Board and that hearings shall be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with the provision of the Board's *Rules and Procedure for Appeals*. The Committee agreed by consensus to adopt Mr. Burns' proposed policy revisions.

Mr. Burns shared that there was an additional Board member request to amend. He indicated he would share with Ms. Ortiz for her review. The Committee agreed to hold the policy for additional review at the October 3 Committee meeting.

**JB – Compulsory Attendance:** Ms. Ortiz noted that technical revisions had been made to Policy JB. In accordance with Policy BAF – Policy Setting, full board approval is not necessary to adopt stylistic or technical changes to Board policy. The Committee granted Ms. Ortiz permission to make the technical changes to the policy without Board review, provided electronic notice is made to the entire Board in advance.

*FYI – Regulations*

**JB-RA- Compulsory Attendance:** This regulation was updated to align with new State law regarding compulsory attendance for pregnant and parenting students and excused absences for students with behavioral health needs.

**JQ-RA- Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students:** The revisions to this regulation are the result of new guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education. The regulation has been revised to allow for the update of student records regarding student gender and remove the requirement for legal documentation of a name change in order to revise this information in the student's record.

**Good of the Order:** None

**Adjourn:** 3:47PM