

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

July 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. with the following people present: Sharon Cox (chair), Pat O'Neill, Charles Haughey, George Margolies, Glenda Rose (recorder), Harriet Potosky, Robin Confino, Greg Thornton, Lori-Christina Webb, Karen Crawford, Judy Lewis, Charlotte Levine, Betsy Brown, Martin Creel, Dick Hawes, and Jodi Silvio.

POLICY JFA – STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It was announced that a legal opinion regarding discipline and zero tolerance practices will be available for discussion at the September meeting. An attorney will be available at the meeting to discuss the implications of discipline covered in Board policy.

REGULATION COG-RA – PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Staff reported that middle school principals think the policy is working and were opposed to the use of cell phones at after school events. However, the superintendent is agreeable to revising the regulation to permit possession of cell phones at after school activities. The new regulation will be included in all information sent to students.

POLICY JNA – CURRICULAR EXPENSES FOR STUDENTS

Comments received centered on a free education for all children. However, the draft policy reflects a balance since there is no academic penalty for lack of funds to pay. The regulation will define supplemental materials and provide examples.

POLICY FFA AND REGULATION FFA-RA – NAMING SCHOOLS

The issue had been raised about naming parts of a school building and fields. Staff pointed out that the regulation had the option for schools to consider the name for a portion of the building with the approval of a community superintendent. There was concern that the Board had not given authority for the regulation to allow schools to name portions of the building, and it was agreed that the policy and/or the regulation should be revised. After a discussion, it was decided that selling naming rights should be forbidden. The policy and regulation will come back to the committee in the fall with recommendations drafted by staff.

POLICY CFB – PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

The existing policy was revised to be consistent with the new state law. There was a discussion about facilities, and it was agreed that building codes would apply for disabilities, health, and safety. Appropriate language will be added to the policy.

The timeline in state law (120 days for Board action) and the budget cycle were considered. It was agreed that the final approval could not be granted without sufficient funding, and two

paragraphs that condition actions are contingent upon approval of funding should be combined. It is only incumbent on the Board to request the funding from the appropriate agency.

The application process was discussed, and it was determined that a clear and concise process should be detailed in the regulation. The superintendent should be authorized to establish an application process including submission deadlines for budget consideration.

The committee changed the wording so that the charter school proposal would now have to identify an *innovative learning experience* rather than *uniqueness*. The phrase *negative impact* was changed to *unduly detrimental impact*.

The committee weighed the terms, conditions, and termination of the charter school's negotiated contract with the public school system.

Other areas discussed were: status of applicants, waivers, student admission, financial disclosure, food services, and transportation.

The policy will come to the Board on July 29 for tentative approval.

UPDATE ON REGULATION IFA-RA – CURRICULUM

Staff reported that the work group has met regarding the procedures and process for implementation of the policy. The group had developed four questions with a position for each question. The Curriculum Advisory Steering Committee will have at least one MCPS staff representative and one parent representative from each of the Curriculum Advisory Committees, with individuals from MCPS offices and community groups as designated by the Associate Superintendent. The Curriculum Advisory Committees are composed of stakeholders reflecting the diversity of the MCPS community and interests in the curriculum, including at least four parents, school-based administrator, major offices, teacher, one business person, student, and content area experts.

There was a discussion regarding the representation on the various committees, pilots for new curriculums, evaluation of curriculum, and smaller committees or ad hoc committees.

The new regulation will be ready by the beginning of the school year.

REGULATION BFA-RA – POLICYSETTING

Staff reported that the policy is being worked on and will bring it to the Policy Committee in September.

There was a discussion how the policy review and revision process works. Also, the public comment period was looked at, and, depending on the policy, there could be a shortened period for comments or a forum/hearing.

GOVERNANCE VS. OPERATIONS POLICIES

The committee reviewed policies to determine whether they related to governance or operations and whether or not all the policies were required. The chair asked for a list of policies and recommendations for rescission of those policies that are obsolete, redundant, or outdated. There is a need to assure that the current policy is the current practice in the school system

FUTURE AGENDAS

Regulation BFA-RA – *Policysetting*

Policy IPD – *Travel Study Programs and Student Organization Trips*

Policy JFA – *Student Rights and Responsibilities*

Policy IJA – *Counseling and Guidance*

The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.