

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. with the following people present: Sharon Cox (chair), Steve Abrams, Pat O'Neill, George Margolies, Glenda Rose (recorder).

Staff present: Betsy Brown, Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Diane Mohr, Jody Leleck, Lori-Christina Webb, Laura Steinberg, Erick Lang, Martin Creel, and Cathy Pevey

## **Review of POLICY IFA – Curriculum**

As an interim process in lieu of a five-year cycle for review of each subject area, staff presented a six-year curriculum delivery plan for grades and programs with years indicated for frameworks, blueprints/outlines, instructional guides, classroom use, and revision. It was agreed that a five-year review is practical after the new curriculum has been rolled out and implemented. Staff stated that they would like to come back to the committee in the fall with a defined curriculum review plan beginning in 2009 and to be complete in 2010. The committee was impressed by the amount of work that has been accomplished to date.

## **Update on the Implementation of Policy IKA – Grading and Reporting**

Staff reported that there are 19 elementary schools field-testing the standards-based report cards. The people have done a wonderful job, and central office staff is using their experience and knowledge to tweak the report cards. Staff have conducted surveys and interview principals for the future standards-based electronic report card. In the secondary schools, four schools (two high school and two middle schools) are field-testing Pinnacle (electronic grading). Edline is a web-based tool that allows parents to monitor student performance, check assignments, and communicate with teachers. After all field testing, a decision will be made on the tool to be used, but it is easier to implement a choice rather than a mandate.

There are continuing discussions on reteaching and reassessing. Through surveys and focus groups with teachers, parents, and community members, there is rich feedback ready for analysis by the Department of Shared Accountability.

## **Discussion of Policy IOA – Gifted and Talented Education**

Staff explained that at the present the “label” does not guarantee services. Rather than the “label” of gifted, staff would like to label the services, not the child. Those students above grade level would get more accelerated instruction, and those students far above grade level would be placed in special programs. The committee thought there was a need to bring the policy into alignment with MCPS’ expectation for the education of gifted students. It was agreed to move forward with a revision to the policy based on a

global talent development. Additionally, the committee thought that the gifted definition should be narrowed and a new definition should be utilized for the motivated and able students to get services through differentiation in the classroom in a continuum of services.

### **Revisions to Policy FFA – Naming School Facilities**

There was a new business item to identify a process wherein the Board could name a facility without engaging the community. There was a discussion on the Board process that included a resolution to waive the community involvement process, that it must lay over until the next Board meeting after introduction, and a requirement for a two-thirds vote to pass the resolution.

### **Update on the Loss-of -Credit**

Staff had analyzed the data received from schools. Staff thought that the three-day warning letter kept students from getting more unexcused absences, but it did not indicate a passing grade. The committee wanted assurances about consistency of attendance data throughout the system, quality control, confirmation of data, and a guarantee that a notice has been issued.

### **Policy BNB – Board Staff Management and Operations**

The committee reviewed the two comments received from the public. The suggestions were stylistic and did not change the content. The policy will go to the May 22, 2006, Board meeting for final action.

The next meeting is June 14, 2006, at 2:30 p.m.

1. Final Action of Policy ABA – *Community Involvement*
2. Final Action on Policy IOB – *Education of Students with Disabilities*
3. Discussion on Policy GBD – *Recognition of Employees* and  
Policy GEE – *Teachers and Principals Holding Second-Class Certificates*
4. Revision of Policy IEB – *Middle School Education*

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.