MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
April 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with the following committee members and support staff present: Sharon Cox (chair), Pat O'Neill, Marlene Hartzman, and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Lori-Christina Webb, Elaine Chang-Baxter, Robin Confino, Betsy Brown, Judy Bresler, Michael Perich, Jody Leleck, and Don Kress.

Others present: Jane de Winter.

Policy Implications for the Use of Religious Venues for Public School Events
The committee listened to the legal ramifications of government entities using religious venues. There are three prongs to the Lemon test—have a secular purpose, show neutrality between religions and between religion and non-religion, and no excessive entanglement. The question was whether it was a matter of law or policy or perception of the participants as to appropriateness. It was decided that this topic was not appropriate for a policy, and the superintendent should develop guidelines for principals. The committee will be advised regarding the process and timeline for the development of the guidelines.

Update on Implementation of Policy IKA
Staff presented the status report (copy attached). The committee inquired about the status of high school grading, and staff replied that the course teams put together the objectives and communicate grading criteria with the students and parents.

Glossary of Policy Terms
Staff provided the committee with a list of terms and definitions. A discussion ensued on the context of the term, terms of art, and the need to keep the definition within the document. It was decided to add the curricular terms to the curriculum web page, hot links will be placed in the policies to lead the reader to a definition, and feedback will be solicited through public comments on policy definitions.

Review of Policy Committee Work Plan
The committee talked over the need to add Policy CFA, *Site-based Participatory Management*, and Policy ACD, *Quality Integrated Education*, to the work plan. It was agreed that the principles of the these policies need to be rewritten based on the Strategic Plan. Staff agreed to come back to the committee with a recommendation for a process and timeline.

<u>Next Meeting</u>

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 120. Agenda items may include:

1. Policy IEA, *Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education*
2. Early Entrance to Kindergarten
3. Plans for Middle School Reform
4. Final Review of Policy Implementation, Policy FAA, *Long-range Facilities Planning*

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Board Policy Committee Update on IKA
April 11, 2007

Information memorandum, not an agenda item on April 19, 2007; memorandum coming tomorrow. Highlights of the memorandum include the following:

- Modified rollout for elementary schools, as reported to committee in the fall.

- All secondary schools will be implementing OARS next school year.

- Preliminary DSA analysis of teacher surveys at secondary level indicate
  o continued inconsistency in implementation of reteaching/reassessment and, to a lesser degree, of the 50% rule.
  o improved understanding of policy and procedures and improved support and communication from central office staff.

- Preliminary DSA analysis of teacher surveys at elementary level indicate
  o continued belief in field test schools that standards based grading and reporting support teaching and learning
  o job-embedded support and professional development help
  o team planning and support of trained teacher leaders help
  o high level of readiness in field test schools to move to Grade 3
  o moderate level of readiness in sampled non-field test schools to begin Grades 1 and 2

- DSA will survey parents in 52 secondary schools implementing OARS, 19 field test and 19 non-field test elementary schools.

- A limited number of grade book advisors and Edline super users in each secondary school will receive stipends, beginning in the 2007–2008 school year.

- Detailed guidelines on duties, selection, and supervision of staff in these roles have been developed and will be communicated to schools.

- Grading and reporting look fors, developed by the Grading and Reporting Implementation Team (GRIT), will be used as the basis for monitoring and support. Clarification on grading procedures will be addressed in resource teacher meetings during the summer and through on-going professional development and support during the school year.

- The OARS Work Group and a multi-stakeholder OARS Advisory Team were established to support the customization and implementation of a Web-based grading program, Pinnacle, and reporting program, Edline.

- The Web-based grading component of OARS also is being customized for elementary schools and the standards-based version will be field tested during 2007–2008.

- In summer 2007, required professional development at the elementary level will focus on standards-based teaching and learning in Grade 3, to build philosophical understanding on the connection between grading and instruction. This emphasis will continue each year as electronic standards-based grading rolls up the elementary grades.

- Selected staff in 14 secondary schools implementing OARS for the first time will be trained during summer 2007 and throughout the school year, following the model established in 2006-2007.

- Staff in OCIP, OSESS, OIOS, and OOD has devoted significant time and effort to support schools, as they implement this policy. Schools report appreciation of the timely and specific technical assistance they have received by e-mail, phone, and at staff and parent work sessions and meetings.

- Informal input and feedback are collected continuously from administrators, instructional leaders, teachers, and parents through e-mail; phone calls; staff and parent meetings; Elementary Principals Action Team (EPAT); elementary, middle, and high school principals meetings; Councils on Teaching and Learning (CTL); MCCPTA; and in focus groups.

- A writing team has been established to craft the regulation to implement Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*. The regulation will incorporate

  o the operational framework endorsed by the Board of Education in March 2003,
  o components of the previous regulation that remain consistent with the revised policy
  o guidelines developed over the last two years by multi-stakeholder groups and which were distributed to schools for their immediate implementation

- Stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to review an early draft of the regulation and feedback will be considered as revised and final drafts are constructed. Upon completion, the final draft of the regulation will be presented to MCPS leadership for review during school year 2007–2008.

POLICY	NAME	POLICY COMMITTEE	TENTATIVE BOARD ACTION	COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES	POLICY COMMITTEE	FINAL BOARD ACTION
	Annual Report	5/9/07				
	Board Handbook	6/13/07				
	Loss of Credit					
	Monitoring Middle School Reform	5/9/07				
BBB	Ethics					
BLB	Rules of Procedure in Appeals and Hearings	7/11/07				
CGA	Summer School					
EEA	Student Transportation					
FAA-RA	Long-range Educational Facilities Planning	5/9/07				
IEA	Framework and Structure of Early Childhood/ Elementary Education	12/13/06	3/13/07	5/4/07	5/9/07	5/21/07
IED	Framework and Structure of High School Education					
IFA	Curriculum (review)					
IKA	Grading and Reporting Updates	6/13/07				
IOA	Gifted and Talented					
ISA	High School Graduation Requirements and Waiver of Four-Year Enrollment Requirement for Graduation					
JFA	Student Rights and Responsibilities	11/8/06	11/14/06	1/19/07	3/14/07	4/19/07