

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

July 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Pat O'Neill (chair), Shirley Brandman, Chris Barclay, Tim Hwang, Suzann King (staff assistant), Laura Steinberg (staff assistant) and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Suzanne Merchlinsky, Robin Confino, Brian Edwards, Marty Creel, Jennifer Lowndes, Lori-Christina Webb, Kay Williams, Pam Montgomery, Ginger Corpus, Maureen Ryan, Susan Marks, Erick Lang, Steve Zagami, Joe Lavorgna, and Diane Mohr.

Other attendees: Kay Romero, Michelle Santee, Mark Adelman, Laurie Brickner, and Evie Frankl.

## **Committee Minutes**

**ACTION:** The May 5, 2009, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

## **Policy IOA, Gifted and Talented Education**

The committee received a presentation from the staff of the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction regarding the delivery of advanced instruction. Staff outlined what has been learned thus far regarding the use of the gifted label and the provision of advanced level instruction, how global screening is currently conducted, how the current global screening process is not tied to course placement decisions and articulation, the necessity of professional development in opening the pathways to advanced instruction, and the need for a systemic process to ensure that all students have access to a challenging curriculum and instruction.

Staff is currently working on a new process that would be piloted in 25 schools in the 2009-10 school year. In this new process, performance data would be gathered on students and reviewed by a committee that would make decisions about the classes and instruction the student should receive based on that data. Those placement decisions would be compiled in a report sent to the parents. It was noted that this approach is not inconsistent with Policy IOA.

The committee members were interested in monitoring for success, frequency of the monitoring, interventions, and real-time data. Finally, there is an appeal process if parents do not agree with the placement.

**ACTION:** Staff is scheduled to make a presentation to the full Board during its September meeting. Further, staff will provide a report after August 2010 to the Policy Committee to discuss the data from the pilots.

**Policy JHF, Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation**

Staff explained the background and requirements of a recently-enacted Maryland law that requires every school system to have a bullying policy. MSDE sent a model policy to each school system in Maryland requesting that they draft a bullying policy and submit it to MSDE by July 1. (MCPS staff filed a draft of Policy JHF with MSDE prior to July 1. MSDE indicated this was acceptable pending finalization of the policy during the fall.) The committee reviewed the policy and made minor edits.

**ACTION: The committee referred the policy for agenda setting and a future Board meeting with a recommendation to take tentative action.**

**Policy ECK, Use of Smith Center for Non-MCPS Groups**

Noting the uniqueness of the Smith Center, this policy clarifies the right of MCPS to retain scheduling of this facility instead of ICB. The committee reviewed the proposed changes to the policy, and it agreed it was ready for Board action.

**ACTION: The committee referred the policy for agenda setting and a future Board meeting with a recommendation to take tentative action.**

**Policy ECD, Use of Playgrounds**

The committee decided to refer the policy to the Board with a recommendation to rescind this policy given that playgrounds are scheduled through ICB.

**ACTION: The committee referred the policy for agenda setting and a future Board meeting with a recommendation to take tentative action.**

**Policy GFC, Reassignment of Personnel after 25 Years or Age 50**

The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines for maintaining salary and retirement benefit levels for personnel who are transferred or assigned to positions with a lower salary classification, especially within two years of retirement. Discussion focused on the need to add language to clarify the conditions of the agreement regarding reassignment, as well as the need to report information to the Board when such reassignments occur.

**ACTION: The committee referred the policy for agenda setting and a future Board meeting with a recommendation to take tentative action. In addition, staff will include information in the Board's monthly personnel report when such reassignments of staff occur.**

**Policy BOA, Legal Services**

The committee reviewed changes to the policy proposed by staff. Staff will further review the language regarding the factors to be considered in the selection and

retention of attorneys. There was a discussion on the contract length and the evaluation cycle.

**ACTION: Staff will incorporate the committee's changes in the policy and recommend language at the September committee meeting regarding the factors to be considered in the selection and retention of attorneys.**

**Update on Policy JNA, Curricular Expenses for Students**

Staff provided the committee with an update concerning their efforts to implement the new guidelines concerning curricular fees. More specifically, they noted that a webpage has been developed (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/fees/>) to provide extensive information to parents regarding the guidelines. In addition, by July 22, 2009, all schools must submit their respective lists of curricular fees to the community superintendent for approval.

**ACTION: Staff will provide an update on this issue at the September meeting.**

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 120.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.