

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

November 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Pat O'Neill (chair), Shirley Brandman, Chris Barclay, Tim Hwang, Suzann King (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Suzanne Merchlinsky, Brian Edwards, Robin Confino, Steve Bedford, Betsy Brown, Angela Stevenson, Sally Davis, Lori-Christina Webb, Jennifer Lowndes, and Erick Lang.

Other attendees: Kay Romero.

Committee Minutes

ACTION: The September 22, 2009, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Policy IED, Framework and Structure of High School Education, Policy IGA, High School Core Courses, and Policy ISA, High School Graduation Requirements & Waiver of Four Year Enrollment Requirement for Graduation.

Staff reported that a workgroup had been convened to review and update Policy IED, similar to the policies for Early Childhood Education and Middle School Education. Staff explained that the workgroup examined the policy for consistency, prepare students to be college and career ready, flexibility for high schools to have unique program, family and community collaboration, and equity. There was an effort to align the framework for high school education with that of the middle school. Moreover, there is a need to make sure that this policy is aligned with all other policies. As usual, regulatory language was removed from the policy and will be incorporated into an updated regulation. The committee suggested additional language for clarification, and staff will make the changes requested by the committee for review at the next meeting.

Further, staff explained that Policy IGA and Policy ISA could be rescinded given that they were being incorporated into Policy IED. The committee asked that staff ensure that the language of the rescinded policies are incorporated into Policy IED and that those sections are highlighted for committee member.

ACTION: The policies will be scheduled for a future (January) committee agenda.

Follow-up on Report Regarding Reporting Requirements with Policies

At a previous meeting, the committee identified various policies that contained reporting requirements which would either necessitate further committee review or require non-substantive changes to address those reporting requirements. Staff provided the committee with a status report on this matter, including a forecast of when each policy would be brought to the committee.

Update on Three Year Policy Review

Staff discussed the policy audit process and activity since January 2009. Staff sends one third of the policies to administration every year for a review seeking either an update or revision. Depending on the workload of the office, the policies are scheduled for revision and brought to the Policy Committee.

Update on Grading and Reporting Website

Noting the committee's interest in ensuring that the committee had "one-stop shopping" for information relating to Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, staff presented a mock up of the Grading and Reporting Web site which contains all such information. The committee asked that a link to this web site be included in Edline so that it would be accessible to parents when they log on to Edline.

Policy JNA, Curricular Expenses for Students

Staff provided an update to the committee regarding the implementation of the new guidelines for curricular fees. Staff reported that there was a question from a community member about the "inconsistent" cost of PSAT fees across MCPS high schools. Staff noted that this fee is not a curricular fee because it is charged by an outside organization. However, the amount of fees charged to students has been addressed with the high schools' administrators. Although this does not constitute a curricular fee issue, staff wanted to ensure that committee members were aware that there is a shortage of 741 musical instruments for elementary students after distributing the available central inventory of instruments to schools. Principals will encourage parents to either rent or lease musical instruments.

ACTION: Staff will continue to monitor all aspects of curricular fees and provide a report at the next committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.