

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

November 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Sharon Cox (chair), Shirley Brandman, Quratul-Ann Malik, Pat O'Neill, Suzann King (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Suzanne Merchlinsky, Linda Ferrell, Marlene Hartzman, Holli Swann, Lori-Christina Webb, Kathy Lazor, and Phil McGaughey.

**Committee Minutes**

**Action:** The minutes of the October 15, 2008, meeting were approved as presented.

**Update on the Implementation of Policy IEB, Middle School Education**

Ms. Ferrell provided an update on the implementation of Policy IEB, Middle School Education. She reported that middle school reform is the right initiative and that the best practices of the magnet middle school should be replicated in other middle schools without the same level of funding. As part of the reform, the schools may choose academic pathways with opportunities to accelerate the regular curriculum. The middle school chooses a pathway based on community input, and other electives are based on students' interest, such as art and music.

Ms. Ferrell also reported that the professional development of teachers within the Phase II schools is focused on adolescent learners, collaboration, and rigorous instruction. Furthermore, there are clear expectations regarding how to use/implement the information received in training, such as differentiation.

Discussion focused on middle school reform taking advantage of Universal Design for Learning, the pathways available to middle schools and professional development.

**Policies Identified for Review at October Meeting**

The committee reviewed the following policies:

Policy ACB, *Nondiscrimination*

Policy ACG, *Access to Services, Programs, and Activities by Individuals with Disabilities*

Policy GMA, *Human Relations Training of MCPS Staff*

Policy IGN, *Combating Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse*

After a discussion, staff suggested that some of the policies could be rescinded, but there was a need to “crosswalk” with other policies to assure that the necessary components were addressed by other policies and that there was compliance with all local, state, and federal laws.

**ACTION: Staff is to review history of policies, research legal requirements, incorporate necessary components into existing policies, and report back to the committee. When a policy is rescinded, the cover memo should indicate where the language is located in another policy or regulation.**

**Policy DJB, Bid Awards**

Staff explained that the amount in the policy (\$7,500) should be amended to \$25,000 to reflect state law and the Procurement Manual.

**Action: The committee agreed with this technical change and to schedule this item for Board review/approval.**

**Update on Policy Evaluation Overview Of Policy JPG, Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health**

Staff stated that the desired outcome is to determine an educational environment that encourages life-long healthy behaviors, supports personal well-being and fitness, and promotes academic success. Staff explained the policy evaluation process including a timeline, data collection, definitions, and surveys. Staff will also review language in the policy that “encourages” student physical activity.

Some activities of staff will be conducted in collaboration with the State’s Wellness Workgroup. The committee expressed interest in receiving the minutes from that workgroup. Discussion focused on the alignment of the work of the State’s workgroup and the evaluation of the implementation of Policy JPG, and whether ICB should be surveyed as part of the implementation review given that MCPS has no direct control over activities provided by outside groups.

**Action: When the evaluation is complete and presented to the Policy Committee, a copy should be shared with Mr. Leventhal and Education Committee of the County Council.**

**Update on the Evaluation of the Outcome of the Three-year Policy Review Process**

Staff reported the following:

- 28 policies have gone through the audit process
- Three are ready for final action by the Board
- Five policies will be recommended for non-substantive changes or rescission

- Seven policies are under active revisions by staff
- Ten policies have just been sent out through the audit process.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 120.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.