

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

March 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with the following people present: Sharon Cox (chair), Pat O'Neill, Charles Haughey, Sagar Sanghvi, George Margolies, Glenda Rose (recorder), Harriet Potosky, Lori-Christina Webb, Susan Falkenhan, Judy Lewis, Karen Crawford, Robin Confino, Karen Harvey, Carey Wright, and Judy Madden.

POLICY JFA – Student Rights and Responsibilities

There was a discussion on the local school procedures for zero tolerance. Dr. Haughey was troubled by a total zero tolerance standard, and he thought there should be consistency in the school system tempered with flexibility for certain activities, such as graduation. Mrs. O'Neill was convinced that zero tolerance was successful in curtailing dangerous behavior by students, especially seniors.

One of the consequences of zero tolerance is non-participation in graduation ceremonies, and there was a discussion on whether graduation was a right or a privilege, due process rights, and limited ban from graduation for second semester infractions.

Ms. Cox offered the following compromise which was agreed to by a majority vote of the committee:

Local school staff, in collaboration with students and parents, shall develop, implement, and enforce disciplinary standards and procedures which may include zero tolerance policies and procedures that limit or restrict participation in extracurricular or other school-related activities or events. Exclusion from commencement ceremonies may not be included in local school zero tolerance policies; however, principals retain the authority to exclude students from participation in commencement ceremonies for cause on a case by case basis.

The language will be vetted by legal counsel, and the policy will be presented at the March 22, 2004, Board meeting for final approval.

POLICY BOA – Legal Services

There were no public comments on the policy, and it will be presented to the Board on April 15, 2004, for final approval.

POLICY CNA – Informational Materials and Announcements

There had been a great deal of input during the comment period. The issues centered on distribution of materials for non-profits, religious activities, enhancement of opportunities for students, and community recreation and athletics. Some thought the current policy should be left in place.

There were no suggested changes to the approved categories for distribution and display purposes, and the policy will be presented at the April 26, 2004, Board meeting for final approval.

POLICY IKA – Grading and Reporting

The committee received an update from Dr. Harvey on the implementation of the policy that included

1. Homework
2. Extra Credit
3. Effort
4. Participation

Homework must be meaningful and receive specific feedback. Homework may be marked, but not graded, and used to determine a grade if designed to demonstrate knowledge or competency.

Extra credit would be receiving another opportunity to demonstrate mastery on a different assignment at a different time and is appropriate and may be used to determine a grade.

Effort is valued because it correlates to achievement may be reported, and should be reported separately from achievement since it does not give evidence of mastery.

Participation should be reported separately since it is an aspect of developing skill. It can be used to determine a grade when a student demonstrates mastery.

The revised report cards were reviewed by the committee. There was also a discussion on guidelines for “late” work.

There have been a series of meetings with staff and the community to share implementation plans and receive feedback.

There is concern in the community that students’ grades will drop when the policy is fully implemented. Staff will continue to work with principals and teachers.

POLICY IJA – Student Counseling Programs and Services

The committee reviewed the revised policy. The policy had been drafted by a broad-based

workgroup with a great deal of input from all stakeholders. The language changes suggested by committee members will be incorporated in a revised draft policy, to be reviewed again at the next meeting. The policy is scheduled for tentative action by the Board on June 21, 2004.

Future Agendas

1. Policy CNA
2. Policy AEB
3. Alignment of policies and the strategic plan

Meetings

April 14, 2004 – 2:30 p.m.

May 3, 2004 – 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.