

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

December 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, Roland Ikheloa, Judy Lewis, Anita Mostow, Greg Thornton, Karen Crawford, Betsy Brown, Laura Steinberg, Karen Harvey, Frank Stetson, Roula Sweis, and Carol Gayle.

POLICY JEA – ATTENDANCE

Staff reported that the work group had met several times and reviewed state law, policy, regulations, and practice. The policy was drafted without the full consensus of the work group on all issues; however, the majority approved the draft. Staff stated that the parent representative was not in favor of the draft. School staff was in favor of a minimum daily attendance requirement regardless of absences being excused or unexcused. The frequently asked questions about attendance are – lawful absence, minimum daily attendance requirement, implications of not meeting minimum requirement, credit, and referrals.

The work group had explored the policies and regulations of other school systems, and what worked was intensive intervention for absence students. The work group thought there should be consequences for student absences. The initial discussion of attendance started with the statement that loss of credit did not work.

There was a discussion on demonstrating mastery and denial of credit based in attendance. Since the grading and reporting policy did not stipulate required attendance, it was illogical that a student would be denied credit if they could demonstrate mastery of the course requirements.

Points were made that the attendance and grading and reporting policies cannot be in conflict. The policy should look to the future when there could be very little seat time, such as virtual school and credit by exam.

All members agreed that staff will align the attendance policy and the grading and reporting policy, including any future plans for instruction. Recommendations will come back to the committee for review in time for tentative approval by the full Board in March 2004.

POLICY IPD – TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The committee reviewed the public comments and decided that there were no changes to the draft policy. The policy will go to the Board on January 13, 2004, for final approval.

POLICY JED – RESIDENCY, TUITION, AND ENROLLMENT

The policy had been redrafted and reformatted to comply with state law, including editorial changes and less regulatory language. After a short discussion, it was decided to send the policy to the Board for tentative approve on February 10, 2004.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENT SEX OFFENDERS

Legislation has been drafted by Delegate Cryor, and she shared it with the Board's staff director. There are other parts of the law where offenses by students should be reported to the school system. With that knowledge, the school system has the right to determine an educational placement for the student based on safety concerns. The Board should be in the channel of communication on these situations.

Administration reported that they are working on a memorandum of understanding with the police on a number of issues, and, in the future, schools will be notified before the community. The committee thought the process must be more transparent on what the school system is doing in order to create better understanding in the community.

It was decided that there will be a Board discussion of this topic, and the date will be decided at agenda setting.

GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

A list of policies for rescission was distributed. A packet will be distributed at the next meeting, and the committee will review those policies for Board action.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.