

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

April 21, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following people present: Sharon Cox (chair), Valerie Ervin, Pat O'Neill, George Margolies, Glenda Rose (recorder), Robin Confino, Lori-Christina Webb, Sona Davis, Joe Lavorgna, Bruce Crispell, and 30 people from the MCCPTA leadership and the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

Policy FAA – Long Range Educational Facilities Planning

Staff explained the process of policy revision and adoption. In the past, most policies have been regulatory in nature and very prescriptive. A policy sets out the board's vision and desired state and gives guidance for the regulation that will achieve that vision. The Board is systematically revising policies in order for the policies and, ultimately the regulations, to work together with other policies and regulations as well as the Strategic Plan.

Staff outlined the working draft of the policy as revised by staff at the request of the Policy Committee. Each section was reviewed line by line.

Based on comments, the committee made further changes (**in bold**) in the following sections:

1. Under PURPOSE – The Long-range Educational Facilities Planning (LREFP) policy guides the planning process. The process is designed to promote public understanding of planning for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and **to provide opportunities for parents, students, staff**, community members, and organizations, local government agencies, and municipalities to identify and communicate their priorities and concerns to the superintendent and the Board. **Long-range Educational Facilities Planning will be in accordance with all federal, state, local laws, and regulations.**
2. Under POSITION – new 2.e. – **Geographic student choice assignment plans (such as consortia)**
3. Under POSITION – new 2.f – School closures and **consolidations**
4. Under POSITION – 3.d – Facility utilization levels, capacity calculations, school size guidelines, **and school site size** (adopted as part of the Board of Education review of the superintendent's recommended CIP)
5. Under POSITION – 3.e – **The Board of Education will hold public hearings and solicit written testimony on the recommendations of the superintendent**

6. Under POSITION – 5 – Provide a process for facility design that ensures a safe and secure environment and is consistent with education program needs **and includes community input**
7. Provide a process for changing school boundaries and establishing **geographic** student choice assignment plans
8. Under POSITION – 6.e. – **At such time as the Board of Education takes action on the boundary proposal or geographic students choice assignment plan, the Board has the discretion to adopt minor modifications to the superintendent’s recommendation or Board identified alternatives if, by a majority vote, the Board has determined that such action will not have a significant impact on an option that has received public review**
9. Under DESIRED OUTCOMES, added **community**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.