

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

July 5, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. with the following people present: Sharon Cox (chair), Pat O'Neill, George Margolies, Glenda Rose (recorder), Lori-Christina Webb, Pat Kelly, Mike Cohen, Janine Bacquie, Don Kress, Cathie Pevey, Gwen Mason, Joe Lavorgna, Dick Hawes, Steve Bedford, and Shirley Brandeman.

**Policy IOB – Education of Students with Disabilities**

Staff commented that there was a new workgroup checking the policy and regulations with federal law. There was a discussion about monitoring the policy, such as the policy on gifted and talented education. It was pointed out that the education of special education children is heavily monitored through federal and state laws, such as IDEA and NCLB. Committee members were concerned about consistency of instruction and implementation of IEPs. The policy will be scheduled for the Policy Committee in October.

**Early Entrance into Kindergarten**

State law requires that the school system develop a policy for early entrance into kindergarten. An inclusive workgroup will draft a policy and regulation to address early entrance based on motor development, personal and social development, language and literacy, and thinking skills, plus a process for appeals. Staff will bring a draft to the Policy Committee in September.

**Policy IQD – Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

Based on a Board resolution, a workgroup was formed to review the policy, examine best practices, consider a pilot proposal by the Montgomery Blair Cluster, and recommendations. The workgroup met and reached a consensus on the following six recommendations:

1. The 2.0 grade point average should be retained as the grade point standard for participation in extracurricular activities.
2. School guidance counselors should discuss the importance of participation in extracurricular activities, highlight opportunities for participation, and ask students to select specific extracurricular activities when conferring with students and parents regarding each student's course selections and four-year plan.
3. Every secondary school must have ongoing, meaningful extracurricular activities that are open to all students regardless of academic eligibility. Nonathletic activities, whether falling within or exempt from eligibility requirements, must provide benefits to excel, compete, and work as part of a team.

4. Every secondary school must have support program(s) in place to help students maintain or gain eligibility. This support should be available for all students, not just athletes. MCPS should consider realigning resources to support such programs.
5. A summary of academic support programs in secondary schools across the county should be compiled and shared with all schools.
6. In keeping with the review and reporting requirements of Policy IQD, the Board should have an annual review and discussion of how the policy and its implementation impact students and specific subgroups of students.

There was a discussion on the timing of revising the policy and regulations. The committee agreed that work should be done in the fall with the effect dates beginning with the 2006-07 school year. Tentative action by the Board will be scheduled for October.

#### **Memorandum on Naming School Facilities**

The committee reviewed the policy and regulation based on concerns about alignment with other policies and the timing for naming a facility. There was a discussion about a disconnect between the naming of a facility, renaming a facility, and naming a portion of a facility. It was decided that the regulation will be revised to reflect the policy, and it was further decided not to name the facility at the beginning of construction.

#### **Policy BFA – Policysetting**

The committee reviewed the public comments and made some editorial changes. The policy is schedule for final action at the July 27, 2005, Board meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be September 14, 2005. Topics for the meeting will include

1. Update on Policy IKA – *Grading and Reporting*
2. Policy ABA – *Community Involvement*
3. Early Entrance into Kindergarten

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.