

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

May 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with the following committee members and support staff present: Sharon Cox (chair), Steve Abrams, Pat O'Neill, Sarah Horvitz, Ben Moskowitz, Marlene Hartzman, and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Lori-Christina Webb, Elaine Chang-Baxter, Robin Confino, Jody Leleck, Janice Faden, Mike Cohen, Janine Bacquie, Linda Ferrell, Donna Joe, Bruce Crispell, Christina Yuknis, Faith Connelly, Shahpar Modarresi, Elizabeth Cooper-Martin, and Jerry Weast.

Others present: Jane de Winter.

Policy IEA, Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Staff stated that there were 10 comments from the public. The staff and committee worked through all of the suggested changes and made editorial corrections. The policy will go to the Board of Education on May 21, 2007, for final adoption.

Discussion Regarding Early Entrance to Kindergarten Appeal

Mrs. O'Neill stated that kindergarten teachers were concerned about early entrance and the burden of proof of readiness by the parents. Parents do not have the same professional judgment about readiness for their child. Staff explained that the six-week window for assessment is working well, and staff would like the cut-off not to extend beyond the October date. At the present time, there is a process for parents to apply beyond the six-week window for early entrance by supplying private assessments for exceptional children. Furthermore, the parents can appeal the school system's decision.

It was agreed that staff would review the report card data on those children who were admitted through early entrance to kindergarten. The purpose of this review is to collect data to ascertain if the criteria for early entrance are validated by student achievement. Included in the data should be the readiness of the student, and any other data that staff determines would be useful for the Board. The review from staff should provide as much detail as possible in order to evaluate the balance of the burden on the school system and the benefit for a gifted child. Furthermore, it was suggested that the staff could tighten the screening process for early entrance to kindergarten. Staff will provide a recommendation supported by data at the September Policy Committee meeting.

Title I Choice Transfers

There was a brief discussion to determine if there was a need to review the policy

based on the law of *No Child Left Behind*. It was decided that the transfer policy is based on hardship, and there was no need for a policy revision that included Title I choice. The committee thought that staff should look at the specific situation, and if it is treated differently on those rare occasions, the regulation would be adjusted.

Middle School Monitoring Plan Update

Staff presented a chart to evidence the alignment of Policy IEB, reform goals, and recommended actions. The committee asked if the alignment tool would be clear to the parents and community on how the connections are made. Also, the committee thought it would be useful if staff answered the question on the value of the tool for different purposes, such as implementation inconsistency and outcomes across the school system.

Policy FAA, Long-range Educational Facilities Planning

Staff explained that the monitoring/evaluation memorandum covered the implementation of the policy, a matrix, and a binder of background materials. The committee decided to review the memorandum and get back to staff with any edits or suggestions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 120. Agenda items may include:

1. Policy CGA, *Summer School*
2. Policy KMC, *Services Provided to Non-Profit Private Organizations*
3. Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.