

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

December 13, 2006

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

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Lori-Christina Webb, Elaine Chang, Michael Cohen, Janine Bacquie, Janice Faden, Erick Lang, Robin Confino, Shahpar Modarresi, Faith Connelly, Cathy Pevey, Betty Collins, Betsy Brown, Elton Stokes, and Brian Porter.

Others present: Mark Adelman, Jane de Winter, Wayne Goldstein, and Evie Frankl.

Policy IEB: Middle School Education

The committee reviewed the comments from the public and the changes suggested by staff. One of the suggestions by staff was to remove Alternatives A and B since Policy IQD addressed athletic eligibility. The committee supported a reference to Policy IQD without the alternatives.

The committee agreed that there should be references to all policies that cover different aspects of middle school education, such as gifted and talented education. The policies should be available when the policy comes to the Board for final approval, especially Policy IQD.

There were some editorial changes, and the committee asked that the "educational" jargon be replaced with commonly understood terms.

The chair noted that there had been concerns from the public that the policy should be delayed until after the report had been issued and discussed by the Board. She stated that there was a misunderstanding on how the policy was developed, especially since it was the result of input from the steering committee and other stakeholders. There are three pieces that are coming together at the same time—policy, reform, and budget. The cover memorandum transmitting the policy to the Board should describe the role of the Board in all three.

The final adoption of the policy by the Board of Education is scheduled for January 9, 2007.

Policy IEA: Early Childhood and Elementary Education

The committee reviewed the changes that had been suggested at its last meeting. It was agreed that the policy was ready for tentative approval by the Board of Education, and it will be scheduled for Board action through the agenda-setting process.

Update on Policy IKA: Grading and Reporting

Staff commented on the electronic grade books and the implementation of technology in pilot schools. Staff stated that teachers were still learning the tool, applying essential learning, and inputting data. Staff further explained that data collection software will be improved and field tested for capacity and reliability. It was agreed that there will be another update to the full Board in the spring.

Public Testimony

Staff suggested that the website contain information for the public to enhance their testimony's effectiveness. There will be a section on what is expected and guidelines for testimony. Also, the website will outline when and how to sign up to speak at Board meetings, as well as the use of technology.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.