

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

July 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. with the following committee members and support staff present: Sharon Cox (chair), Steve Abrams, Pat O'Neill, Ben Moskowitz, Suzann King (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Lori-Christina Webb, Robin Confino, Brian Porter, Betsy Brown, Holli Swann, Cathy Pevey, and Judy Bresler (speaker phone).

Others present: Jane de Winter, Amy Prywes, Suzanne Weiss, and Jaclyn Gunvitz.

Discussion on Policy KMC: Services Provided to Non-Profit Private Organizations

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

Use of Religious Facilities for School Events

Ms. Pevey presented a set of draft guidelines concerning the use of religious facilities for school events. There was a survey of the current use of facilities, and the issues to be considered. The use of religious facilities is not absolutely prohibited, but schools must actively determine that there is no other acceptable facilities for the event and participation will not result in undue exposure to religious doctrine or iconography. The paper contained eight points to be considered by the principal and other decision makers when requesting the use of a religious facility for a school event.

Mr. Abrams questioned whether the facilities could be used for graduations and whether or not cost would eliminate some options. Ms. Pevey stated that religious facilities could be used after considering all factors.

The committee discussed consultation with parents, feasibility of using religious facilities, exposure to icons, and using an alternative setting, if requested. The committee believed that the topic is not a subject for a policy. The committee made the following changes to the attached draft guidelines:

In first paragraph change "maintain" to "respect"

(4) "attempt" to reach a consensus

(6) change "to the extent possible" to "as appropriate"

(8) change "available" to "viable"

(9) Make sure the event does not coincide with use of religious facility by other religious events/activities

Update on Implementation of Policy IKA: Grading and Reporting

Ms. Brown gave an update to the committee, and she noted that the full Board will have a briefing in September. There is a proposed phase-in for elementary standards-based grading and reporting supported by the Pinnacle grade book. The phase-in will continue

this year with 19 schools to continue to use OASIS for Grades 1 and 2; volunteer school will field test Pinnacle in Grades 1 and 2; and use of standards-based documents to collect evidence of student work using a traditional report card in Grade 3. At present, Pinnacle is used for all secondary schools.

There is still a discussion on whether to use percentages or grades in the secondary schools. Furthermore, secondary schools are not using standards-based grading and reporting. Ms. Brown also reported that they are currently writing a regulation to support the policy.

Discussion of Policies Recommended for Rescission

The committee discussed rescinding the following policies:

Policy HDA: *Designation of the Montgomery County Education Association as Exclusive Representative*

Policy HDB: *Designation of the Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel as Exclusive Representative*

Policy HDC: *Recognition of a Supporting Services Employees Organization*

Policy DJC: *Newspaper Advertising*

Policy GFB: *Temporary Reassignment of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel*

Policy GGA: *Duty Hours and Days*

Regarding proposed rescission of Policies HDA, HDB, and HDC, Association Relations is to contact the union leadership to discuss: (1) the proposed rescission of the policies and (2) to determine whether they would be amenable to adding to the contract the resolution the Board passed authorizing the union as the exclusive bargaining unit. Staff will come back to the Policy Committee with the feedback from the union, a plan for including the resolutions in the contracts, and a recommendation regarding the policies' rescission.

The remaining policies are either recitation of state law that are outdated or are really more appropriately characterized as regulations not policies. By consensus, the committee agreed that DJC and GGA should be rescinded. Further, GFB becomes subsumed by GAA.

Discussion of Committee Work Plan

Staff will provide a timeline for development, review, and Board action for the policies in the committee's work plan.

Policy JNA, Curricular Expenses for Students

The Board has been receiving input from the community about the purchase of textbooks, which may be a violation of the policy. The committee asked for a report concerning Policy JNA, its implication systemwide, and the associated monitoring process. More specifically, the committee wants a report addressing the following items:

1. an analysis of policy JNA to determine the items MCPS is responsible for providing at no cost to students/parents
2. whether the policy is consistently interpreted throughout the system
3. a description of the system or process used to monitor the systemwide application of the policy

4. how violations are handled

Policy KEA, *Political Campaigns and Political Materials*

The current policy allows for students to participate in the general election. Staff is to review this policy to determine if students could use the three days referenced in the policy to participate in political campaign activity for both **primary** and general elections. The committee would like a report on this matter at its September meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 120.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.