

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

March 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Chris Barclay, Pat O'Neill, Alan Xie, Judy Docca, Michael Durso, Phil Kauffman, Suzann King (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Brian Edwards, Robin Confino, Lori-Christina Webb, Wayne Whigham, Marty Creel, Sally Davis, James Song, Janice Turpin, Jeannie Franklin, and Jevoner Adams.

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 7, 2011, meeting were approved as presented.

### **Policy ECM, Joint Occupancy of Montgomery County Public Schools Facilities**

The policy was revised in 1987, and the demand for joint occupancy has increased since that time. Therefore, this policy has been on the committee's work plan and has been brought back to committee for review and recommendations. Draft 13 was reviewed and the committee sought clarification, had questions, and offered direction in the following areas: (1) expand building capacity using relocatables; (2) clarify language regarding non-public use and charter schools; (3) rewrite Section 6.b)(3) to eliminate examples; (4) rewrite sections about licensing requirements to be consistent within the policy; and (5) clarify that the principal does not make the final decision about joint occupancy and waiving the enrollment criterion for certain joint occupancy agreements.

**ACTION:** The committee agreed to forward Policy ECM to the full Board with a recommendation that the Board take tentative action and send out the policy for public comments.

### **Policies HDA, Designation of the MCEA as Exclusive Representative, HDB, Designation of the MCAASP as Exclusive Representative, HDC, Recognition of a Supporting Services Employees Organization, and HDD, Designation of the Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel as Exclusive Representatives of Noncertificated Supervisory Employees**

The committee reviewed the history and content of four resolutions designating exclusive representation for various classes of employees. There was a short conversation about the format of the resolutions, whether resolutions were needed to demonstrate the Board's recognition of the employee associations, and the unions'

desire to have the resolutions. The committee decided to there was a need to update the resolutions to reflect current organizational structure.

**ACTION:** The resolutions will be forwarded to the Board as non-substantive changes and information items.

### **Policy JEE, Student Transfers and Consortia**

At the request of the committee, there was an explanation of the current transfer process (COSA). Noting that February through April is the “transfer season,” staff outlined the steps in the COSA process:

1. Staff reviews issues that arose during the previous year to assure user-friendly procedures, and then revises the COSA procedures and booklet as necessary.
2. Parents submit COSA requests to the assigned school. School staff reviews the information on the form to make sure it is correct and the principal is provided an opportunity to have a discussion with the parent regarding the need for a transfer.
3. The school forwards the form to the Disciplinary Review and School Assignment Unit (DRSAU) for review and decision on the transfer.
4. If DRSAU denies the appeal, the parent may appeal to Mr. Bowers.
5. If Mr. Bowers denies the appeal, the parent may appeal to the Board of Education.

There was a discussion of the meaning of unique hardship and how capacity of the facility may or may not factor into the decision about the transfer. The committee thought there should be a more concise statement in the COSA booklet governing how a parent’s request for a transfer to a specific school is handled in the process. The committee suggested that when staff agrees there should be a transfer out of a school, there should be more information about why the requested school is not granted.

The committee reviewed the school transfers in the consortia for varsity basketball players within the past four years. Staff noted that a student who receives an approved COSA out of his/her current feeder pattern must attend the new school for one calendar year before being able to participate in athletics. Committee discussion focused on transfers within the consortia, the philosophy behind the development of the consortia, athletic waivers for transfer students to play sports, and whether students in the consortia should also attend the new school for one calendar year before being able to participate in athletics.

**ACTION:** The committee agreed that this topic should be added to a future agenda for more deliberation.

The meeting ended at 3:55 p.m.