

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

February 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Chris Barclay, Pat O'Neill, Alan Xie, Suzann King (staff assistant), Laura Steinberg (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Suzanne Merchlinsky, Brian Edwards, Robin Confino, Moriah Martin, Ann Kamenstein, Lori-Christina Webb, Wayne Whigham, Marty Creel, Brenda Wilks, Jeannie Franklin, and Mary Dempsey.

Others present: Judy Bresler.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes from the November 16, 2010, meeting were approved as presented.

Review of updates for Policy ACG, Access to Services, Programs, and Activities by Individuals with Disabilities and Policy GBH, Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

Staff explained the proposal to consolidate Policy ACG and Policy GBH and the effort to retain the tone of Policy GBH with additions to pages 2 and 3 of the revised Policy ACG. The committee discussed definitions and decided to have the regulation address definitions in addition to a reference to federal law. There was consensus that Section A.4 (discrimination) does not fit into the *Purpose* section and was not necessary. Finally, it was agreed that the current sections should be renumbered as follows:

- Section 6 would become Section 3 with the paragraph beginning “to affirm” rather than “to make clear.”
- Section 7 becomes Section 4 with the paragraph beginning with “to affirm” rather than “reaffirm.”
- Section 3 becomes Section 5.
- Section 5 becomes Section 6.

Lines 229-238 should be deleted as the language already appears in Lines 99-104.

ACTION: In addition to the changes to language noted above, committee members decided to refer this policy to Board of Education with a recommendation for tentative action on Policy ACG and, subsequently, a recommendation to rescind Policy GBH.

Discussion of Policy JED, Residency, Tuition, and Enrollment

Staff reviewed the edits that were made to Policy JED based on the comments made by committee members at the last meeting. Discussion focused on: (1) scope of the circumstances for a denial; (2) information that should be contained in the accompanying regulation; (3) explanation of “denial for cause”; (4) the explanation of “denial of admission” in Line 61; (5) the policy’s parameters concerning residency, homelessness, etc.

ACTION: The committee accepted the proposed edits to Policy JED and determined that they were non-substantive changes. The committee also decided to refer Policy JED to the Board of Education concerning the non-substantive changes.

Discussion of Policy JEE, Student Transfers and Consortia

Staff provided a brief history about the formation of the consortia, the selection of schools, and how the transfer process and change of choice process are implemented. Staff explained that both consortia are treated as one campus with several schools, and the students can have a choice of their school without articulating a reason. Staff discussed the process for Rounds 1 and 2 of the choice process as well as data on movement between consortia schools of students in Grades 9-11. After a student has been placed in a school by lottery and the student wants to change schools, the student must demonstrate a unique hardship as the basis for the transfer. The committee acknowledged that the staff must be working with the students and parents since the number of appeals has decreased over time. There was a discussion about Wheaton High School, its enrollment trends, signature programs and community perceptions about its quality of instruction.

ACTION: The committee asked staff to provide information on: the percentage of students choosing their base area school in the NEC and Down County Consortium (DCC); athletic waivers in the DCC; how many students participated in boys/girls varsity basketball in the NEC over the last three years also participated in the change of choice process; and information about the COSA process.

Discussion of Redistricting

It was noted that the Board of Education districts are subject to redistricting after each census. The committee started an initial conversation on redistricting, including a discussion of the previous redistricting process, as well as current and anticipated legislative activity surrounding this issue. .

ACTION: The committee asked staff to identify the population growth and the district(s) that such growth occurred in, as demonstrated in the 2010 census. Staff will also research what legislative action triggers the redistricting review process.

The meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.