

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

October 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Patricia O'Neill, Chair, Board of Education Policy Committee

Subject: Tentative Action, Policy KGC, *Child Care*

The Montgomery County Board of Education Policy Committee, in consultation with staff members, identified Policy KGC, *Child Care*, for updating. The policy affirms the importance of high quality child care and education settings for all children of Montgomery County. It establishes the scope of Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) role in partnering with the child care community in addressing child care needs. The updated draft policy reflects the recommendations of the child care and joint occupancy policy work group convened fall 2010 to discuss current priorities regarding child care in Montgomery County.

Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education Policy Committee discussed draft Policy KGC, *Child Care*, on May 17, 2011, and on September 20, 2011. The Policy Committee recommended revisions to the policy that update terminology and affirm the Board's support for expanding child care within the limits of available resources, including suitable facilities; and updates further affirm collaborative efforts with others throughout Montgomery County working to meet the needs of students and families. Updated Policy KGC, *Child Care*, is attached.

The following resolution is provided for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Policy KGC, *Child Care*, affirms the importance of high quality child care and education settings for all children of Montgomery County and establishes the scope of Montgomery County Public Schools' role in partnering with the child care community in addressing child care needs; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education Policy Committee has considered and recommended revisions to update Policy KGC, *Child Care*; and

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education take tentative action on Policy KGC, *Child Care*; and be it further

Resolved, That Policy KGC, *Child Care*, be sent out for public comment.

Present at the Board table for the discussion are Ms. Sylvia K. Morrison, director, Department of Instructional Programs, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Ms. Janine G. Bacque, director, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; and Mrs. Stephanie P. Williams, director, Department of Policy, Records and Reporting, Office of Shared Accountability.

PO:hp

Attachment

1 Related Entries: **DDA-RA**, ECM, ECM-RA, KGC-RA

2 **Responsible Office: Curriculum and Instructional Programs**

3

4

Child Care

5

6 A. **PURPOSE**

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8 To affirm the ~~increasing~~ importance of **high quality child care**
9 **and education settings for all children of the issue of child**
10 ~~care in~~ Montgomery County

11

12 ~~and, to specify~~ **To establish the scope of the services that**
13 ~~the~~ Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) **role will provide**
14 **in partnering with the child care community** in addressing
15 child care needs

16

17 B. **ISSUE**

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19 **High quality child care supports, enriches, and enhances the**
20 **educational experience of MCPS students. Early childhood**
21 **experiences, from birth through the first five years of life,**
22 **in the home, child care setting, MCPS, and the community are**
23 **critical in forming the foundation for students' school**
24 **readiness and future success as lifelong learners. Further,**
25 **throughout their school careers, many school-aged children and**
26 **their families require safe, affordable, and high quality**
27 **child care that contributes to the healthy growth and social**
28 **and emotional development of school-aged children.**

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30 BC. ~~PROCESS AND CONTENT~~ POSITION

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32 The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) affirms the
33 importance of efforts to increase the availability of high
34 quality child care that supports, enriches, and enhances the
35 educational experiences of MCPS students. The Board supports
36 efforts to expand child care within the limits of available
37 resources.

38

39 ~~(1) Identifying needs through the use of MCPS~~
40 ~~student population projections~~

41 ~~e) The encouragement of principals, PTA~~
42 ~~members, and the greater community to explore~~
43 ~~child care iss~~

44 ~~e) —~~

45

46 1. Facilities

47

48 ~~The Montgomery County Public Schools~~MCPS will continue to
49 consider the availability of suitable facilities for
50 community child care as it utilizes and modernizes the
51 existing facilities and plans future school sites, as
52 follows:

53

54 ~~cooperate to the extent it can in the following~~
55 ~~areas:~~

56 a) ~~Inclusion of~~ Continue to include child care

57 programs in plans for future schools upon
58 request to the county executive and with the
59 approval of funds budgeted specifically for
60 that purpose by the county government.

61
62 b) ~~The identification of~~ **Identify** potential
63 sites, both at operating and future school
64 sites, for the placement of structures for use
65 by ~~day~~ **high quality child** care programs where
66 feasible.

67
68 gc) ~~The identification of~~ **Identify and contract**
69 **out the use of** space within school facilities
70 ~~for use by day~~ **high quality child** care
71 programs **that best support the MCPS**
72 **educational program under the following terms,**
73 **as appropriate:**

74
75 (1) ~~under a shared~~ **Shared** use, arrangement
76 provided such use does not adversely
77 impact the MCPS instructional program, **or**

78
79 (2) **Joint occupancy** a) ~~The use of surplus~~
80 ~~space in operating schools by child care~~
81 ~~programs under the provisions of the~~
82 ~~Board of Education's~~ **Board's Joint**
83 ~~Occupancy Policy~~ **ECM, Joint Occupancy of**
84 **Montgomery County Public Schools**

85 *Facilities.*

86
87 ~~(2) Sharing expertise with child care providers~~

88
89 ~~d) The assessment of MCPS curriculum needs~~
90 ~~related to child care and the latch key child~~
91

92 **2. Collaboration**

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94 a) MCPS participates in coordinated efforts with
95 principals, parent-teacher associations, child care
96 providers, and state and local agencies, including
97 the Montgomery County Commission on Child Care, to
98 advocate for child care that meets the needs of
99 Montgomery County students and families.

100
101 b) ~~The availability of~~MCPS shares the school system's
102 expertise to assist child care providers to
103 increase the availability of high quality child
104 care that meets the diverse needs of children.
105 Sharing expertise with providers may include, but
106 is not limited to, linking providers and families
107 with needed community services and providing advice
108 and referrals regarding licensing, accreditation,
109 credentials, or professional development resources.

110
111 c) MCPS contributes, as appropriate, published student
112 population projections and other relevant published

113 data or research findings to child care providers
114 and other community members engaged in planning
115 processes for child care services.

116

117 d) MCPS stays informed on and advocates for, as
118 appropriate, federal, state, and local legislative
119 or executive initiatives impacting child care and
120 school readiness.

121

122 e) MCPS may enter into partnerships with community
123 agencies providing child care that directly benefit
124 MCPS students, parents, and the MCPS educational
125 program.

126

127 ~~1. The Montgomery County Public Schools offers its services~~
128 ~~as a partner with other county agencies in addressing~~
129 ~~child care needs to the extent that school facilities may~~
130 ~~permit.~~

131

132 f) MCPS may provide direct services, including, but
133 not limited to, transportation, food services, or
134 professional development as specified and funded in
135 partnership or collaborative agreements with child
136 care programs.

137

138 ~~b) The use of transportation services as~~
139 ~~identified in administrative procedures~~

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143 ED. REVIEW AND REPORTING

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145 1. The Board will receive updates on the planned efforts
146 and/or ongoing ~~efforts of MCPS and county government~~
147 ~~staff on~~ issues concerning child care in Montgomery
148 County as appropriate.

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150 2. This policy will be reviewed ~~every three years~~ in
151 accordance with the Board policy review process.

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154 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 27-86, January 14, 1986;
155 reformatted by Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution
156 No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, and accepted by Resolution No. 209-91,
157 February 25, 1991-; **amended**