

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Chris Barclay, Tim Hwang, Pat O'Neill, Suzann King (staff assistant), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Other staff present: Stephanie Williams, Harriet Potosky, Suzanne Merchlinsky, Brian Edwards, Eric Davis, Denise Stultz, Robin Confino, Bruce Crispell, and Jim Song.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: The committee amended the action item for the Review of Research on Gifted and Talented Education so that staff would return to a future committee meeting to report on gifted students access to the MCPS gifted centers and the role of capacity on denial of admission decisions. The committee approved the minutes as amended.

POLICY ABC, PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The policy was tentatively approved by the Board and sent out for public comment. Eight comments were received from the public. As a result, staff modified the draft policy language from "equal partners in decisions" to "important partners in decisions" and added "including the school improvement process" as one of the items in which families would be involved. The committee discussed how to recognize the important and valued role of parents and how to best convey MCPS's commitment to a partnership with parents and families. It was further suggested that at Line 13, the phrase should be "family school partnerships." At line 138, change "convey" to "promote."

Noting that the Deputy's Minority Achievement Advisory Council (DMAAC) had proposed recommendations on parental involvement, the committee reviewed a chart that compared the DMAAC recommendations to the proposed update of Policy ABC.

ACTION: The Committee recommended that the policy be sent to the Board of Education for final approval after staff clarifies the language and emails the policy to the Committee members for review. The Committee requested that the comparison chart accompany the policy when it is submitted for final action by the Board. Further, staff should explain the policy changes/connections with DMAAC's suggestions.

POLICY FKB, MODERNIZATION/RENOVATION

The Committee reviewed the timeline for the revision of Policy FKB and the new Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) parameters. Staff further explained the reasoning for a shift in the paradigm on school construction contained in Policy FKB. According to staff, given the expected status of MCPS facilities, it will become more cost efficient to focus greater resources on Systematic Life-cycle Asset

Replacement (SLAR). Thus, the policy will recommend three ways to maintain buildings: through routine work order maintenance (especially for buildings constructed after 1985), strengthening SLAR, and modernizations when the building can no longer accommodate programming. With the proposed changes to the policy and FACT assessment, no identified project will lose its place in the present queue. This policy will be discussed at the Board's June 22 work session. Discussion focused on the proposed changes and the need for an effective communication plan regarding the changes to this policy.

ACTION: This policy will be discussed at the June 22 work session with the Board. It was suggested that the vision and purpose might be clarified for universal understanding of the need and process for construction.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.