

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | June 2, 2021

Board Meetings are held in the Board Room of the Carol Sheffey Parham Building at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Times for agenda items are intended as guidance only.

The Board may choose to change the order of agenda items to meet the needs of the Board. Unless changed by the Board, items occur in the order listed.

Board Members

Melissa Ellis
President

Dana Schallheim
Vice President

Candace C.W. Antwine

Robert Silkworth

Corine Frank

Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel

Drake Smith

Upcoming Meetings

General Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
6:00 pm

Policy Committee

Tuesday, June 1, 2021
3:30 pm
Virtual

Budget Committee

Tuesday, June 15, 2021
3:30 pm
Virtual

Equity Committee

TBD
Virtual

10:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

12:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

2.01 Invocation

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2.03 Approval of the Minutes

2.04 Establish Agenda Order

2.05 President's Update

2.06 Recognitions

2.07 Educator of the Month

2.08 Employee of the Month

2.09 Volunteer of the Month

12:15 pm 3. Public Comments

The Board will hear live in-person public comment on agenda items from up to 10 speakers per agenda item during this section of the meeting. Those wishing to provide live in-person testimony may register, space permitting, at

www.aacps.org/boardtestimony. All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written

comments on agenda items can also be submitted through a form available at

www.aacps.org/boardtestimony. The process for submitting such comments and

comments on non-agenda items, which are only accepted in writing, can be found at

www.aacps.org/boardtestimony.

1:15 pm 4. Presentations (I)

4.01 Prismatic Services, Inc., Report

4.02 2020-2021 Reopening Report

3:15 pm 5. Award of Contracts – Consent (A)

5.01 Materials of Instruction – AP Biology (BIOZONE Corp.)

5.02 Materials of Instruction – AP Biology (McGraw Hill, LLC)

5.03 Materials of Instruction – AP Calculus (Cengage Learning)

5.04 Materials of Instruction – AP Calculus (Kaplan, Inc.)

5.05 Materials of Instruction – AP Computer Science

5.06 Materials of Instruction – AP Language and Composition (Bedford, Freeman, and Worth Publishing Group)

5.07 Materials of Instruction – AP Language and Composition (Perfection Learning Corp.)

5.08 Materials of Instruction – AP Statistics (Bedford, Freeman, and Worth Publishing Group)

5.09 Materials of Instruction – AP Statistics (Kaplan, Inc.)

5.10 Materials of Instruction - Biology

5.11 Materials of Instruction – Child Development

5.12 Materials of Instruction - Chinese

5.13 Materials of Instruction – Elementary General Music

5.14 Materials of Instruction – Elementary Visual Arts

5.15 Materials of Instruction – Forensic Science

5.16 Materials of Instruction – High School Health Education

5.17 Materials of Instruction – Introduction to MS Office

5.18 Materials of Instruction – Middle School Technology and Engineering

5.19 Materials of Instruction – Nutrition

5.20 Materials of Instruction – Pre-Calculus

5.21 Materials of Instruction – William and Mary Literature Units and Project M3

5.22 Naviance Software

5.23 Security Vestibules – Broadneck ES, Bodkins ES, Central ES, Oak Hill ES

5.24 Security Vestibule – Four Seasons ES

Key: (I) Information (A) Action (R) Review

Information on agenda items can be obtained from the Board of Education Office (410-222-5311) or at www.aacps.org

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3:50 pm 6. Action Items (A)

6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

6.02 Personnel

6.03 New Course Approvals

6.04 AACPS Virtual Academy

Policy Adoption – Second Reading (I)

6.05 Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students – Code JQ

4:50 pm 7. Review Items (R)

7.01 Award of Contracts

9. Motion to Enter Closed Session (as needed)

Key: (I) Information (A) Action (R) Review

The following testimony was submitted for the June 2, 2021, meeting of the Board of Education. The “...” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word the limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 6.05 – Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students – Code JQ

1. As a Cisgender man, I've had the privilege all my life of never having to think about the bathroom I need to go to. This is not a luxury that trans students, or students not so sure about their gender identity, are afforded. I support this amendment as it helps produce and facilitate a safe environment for students to be able to express their gender identity while feeling safe in their learning environment.

James Blaser
Deale

2. Please develop, implement and enforce policies that will protect LGBTQ+ children in the Anne Arundel school system.

Robert Blaser
Deale

3. AACPS needs this policy to safeguard the rights of LGBTQ students.
I want to address the concerns that people raise about LGBTQ+ students' using school facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms). Some people worry that children will be uncomfortable sharing facilities with transgender children. They fear that children could be harmed by LGBTQ students. These fears are rooted in misunderstandings and stereotypes and aren't supported by data. Since 2016, AACPS has had guidelines regarding the use of school facilities. There have been no reported incidents in which a child has been harmed by an LGBTQ child in bathrooms/locker rooms. Every school has private facilities that any child can use. Second, LGBTQ students are not predatory and are not interested in harming other children. They simply want to feel safe when they attend school, use the bathroom, and change in the locker room. They want to feel as safe in school as any other student. The real risk is that LGBTQ kids will be harmed by others who are homophobic. Finally, some people worry that children, particularly boys, will pretend to be transgender so they can prey on other children in school bathrooms/locker rooms. There is very little risk of this happening. This hasn't been a problem for the five years the transgender guidelines have been in effect. In the unlikely event that this were to occur, let's trust our school administrators to effectively respond.
Growing up is hard enough for LGBTQ+ kids. Let's make school safer and affirming for them.

Abbie Ellicott
Severna Park

4. The School Psychologists' Association of Anne Arundel County (SPAAAC) writes to you today to comment on the Board's proposed policy on "SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS." SPAAAC is a group of AACPS school psychologists who engage in advocacy and community outreach. We work with and counsel LGBTQIA+ students across

grade-levels.

It is imperative to remove the language “consistently demonstrates” from the proposed amendment. This aspect of “consistency” is extremely discriminatory toward students questioning gender identity, recently coming out with a change in gender identity, those students who may be out in school but not at home due to safety reasons, or students who are gender fluid and non-binary.

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) asserts that gender identity is the innermost concept of self as male, female, neither, or a blend of two or more gender identifications. It is the deeply held internal knowledge of identity — who a person is and how they want to be perceived. By including “consistently demonstrating” within this policy, we are impacting student mental health, and violating their rights and the law. According to a brief filed by the Department of Justice: “Prohibiting a student from accessing the restrooms that match his gender identity is prohibited sex discrimination under Title IX. There is a public interest in ensuring that all students, including transgender students, have the opportunity to learn in an environment free of sex discrimination” (G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board, 2015).

We urge you to reconsider and remove this language.

Samantha Ritts
Davidsonville

5. Dear School Board Commissioners,

I write to you today on behalf of GLSEN Maryland that is a chapter of GLSEN, a national organization fighting for every student and staff member’s right to a safe, supportive education and work environment in K-12 education regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We are reaching out in support of the Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students proposed policy to codify anti-discrimination protections for all students and staff in your school district from Pre-K-12. We support additional recommendations to further strengthen this proposed policy that the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Coalition for Safe Schools have presented to the AACPS Board of Education.

Lifting up the voices of our LGBTQ+ students to provide input into this critical policy as they are the experts on what they need for a safe and affirming school experience.

Meaningful and mandatory professional development that goes into fuller depth of what our LGBTQ+ students face in our schools is critical. The current mandatory district-wide Safe Schools Training has minimal and insufficient content in the area of LGBTQ+ information and interactions in our school systems. GLSEN has a professional development workshop series to provide for educators in Pre-K-12 grades.

Ensuring that students' rights to privacy in a school setting is followed in accordance with case law from ACLU: C.N. v. Wolf, 410 F. Supp. 2d 894, 903 (C.D. Cal 2005)

In the interest of equity and the wellbeing of the children of Anne Arundel county, we urge you to pass this policy.

Sincerely,

Lynn Brennan (she/her)
Board Chair, GLSEN MD