

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | June 16, 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, July 7, 2021
12:00 pm

Policy Committee

Tuesday, July 6, 2021
11:00 am
Virtual

Budget Committee

Tuesday, June 15, 2021
3:30 pm
Virtual

Equity Committee

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
11:00 am
Virtual

4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session
1.01 Agenda

6:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2.01 Invocation | 2.07 CRASC Report |
| 2.02 Pledge of Allegiance | 2.08 PTA Report |
| 2.03 Approval of the Minutes | 2.09 CAC Report |
| 2.04 Establish Agenda Order | 2.10 Policy Committee Update |
| 2.05 Teacher's Association of AACO | 2.11 Budget Committee Update |
| 2.06 Recognitions | 2.12 Equity Committee Update |

7:00 pm 3. Public Comment

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

8:30 pm 4. Action Items (A)

- 4.01 Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget Adoption
- 4.02 Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget Adoption
- Place holders (4.03 – 4.07)
- Policy Adoption - Third Reading**
- 4.08 Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students – Code JQ
- Policy Revision- First Reading (I)**
- 4.09 Home School – Code IFQ
- Other Action Items (A)**
- 4.10 Administrative Personnel Appointments
- 4.11 Sabbaticals
- 4.12 2021 Educational Facilities Master Plan
- 4.13 Appointment of Ethics Panel

10:00 pm 5. Consent – Award of Contracts (A)

- 5.01 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services – Southgate ES Classroom Addition
- 5.02 Asphalt Services
- 5.03 Audio Visual Hardware and Installation
- 5.04 Digital Cameras
- 5.05 Digital Subscription – Newsela
- 5.06 Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System Maintenance, Repairs, and Parts
- 5.07 Generator Replacement – Annapolis HS
- 5.08 Materials of Instruction – Elementary Science
- 5.09 Media Center Enclosure - Oak Hill ES
- 5.10 Roof Replacement – Solley ES
- 5.11 Wixie Software

10:30 pm 6. Closed Session (if needed)

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

The following testimony was submitted for the June 16, 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 4.08 – Safe and Inclusive Environments for LGBTQ+ Students – Code JQ

1. I am writing in full support of policy JQ Safe and Inclusive environments for LGBTQ students. This policy is critical to ensure the full protection of all our students who may be targeted based on their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. Unfortunately, students still face the danger of such discrimination and harassment because there are no protections when such acts are committed by staff, volunteers, or other non-student individuals on school grounds. It was stated that this is a policy for students and that is correct – it is to protect the students, which means protecting them from everyone that might attack them within an AACPS setting. POLICY GAOO AND GAOO-RA (EMPLOYEE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA) IS THE ONLY POLICY THAT STATES STAFF CANNOT BULLY STUDENTS – WHICH IS ONLY IF DONE THROUGH A PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM. NO OTHER POLICY HOLDS STAFF ACCOUNTABLE and NO POLICY AT ALL HOLDS OTHER ADULTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR SUCH HARMFUL ACTS. Of note, GAGG and GAGG-RA only protects staff themselves from harassment or discrimination. Just as a student needs to be held accountable if violating Policy JQ (along with JCCA – Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation, and JO- Biased Behavior and Language), whether in a classroom, on a school bus, or at any school facility or school-sponsored activity, staff, volunteers, and other adults should be held to the same accountability. If we do not have a policy in place that protects our students from such harassment and discrimination by ANYONE, then our students will NOT be protected at all. The saying injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere is not just relevant in this context, but we are talking about students’ lives being at threat if we do not have justice across the board in every AACPS setting. Demand language is included in JQ to say staff and other individuals are in violation of the policy if doing such acts or if in retaliation and take immediate steps to amend Policies JCCA and JO with the same language. No one will be safe if all are not held accountable.

India Ochs
Annapolis

2. I am the parent of two AACPS high school students and a 21-year educator. My children’s experiences align with this the Human Rights Watch article (<https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/12/08/walking-through-hailstorm/discrimination-against-lgbt-youth-us-schools>) that documents the need for the protection of LGBTQ+ youth in schools. The article states that: “Schools should ensure that policies, curricula, and resources explicitly include LGBT people, and that the school environment is responsive to the specific needs of LGBT youth.” It is not redundant, as some Board members have tried to imply in the past. The explicit inclusion of LGBTQ+ in anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policy must occur to change the culture within the schools and prevent some of the most disturbing behavior we are hearing about. AACPS need to modernize its policy by including the proposed language, and I am grateful to those who brought this forward.

Michelle Koul
Severna Park

3. My normal course of advocacy is to send research and facts to prove my position. The proof is incontrovertible: LGBTQ students suffer disproportionately; there are not demonstrated problems in school systems, including ours, where transgender students are allowed to use facilities consistent with their gender identity; transgender athletes can and should compete in the sports team consistent with their gender identity; students achieve more and experience better mental health when teachers are fully trained and supportive. I won't send all of the research this time because I know that you all have received and know the facts. I am writing to remind you that you have a huge problem in our school system. You have heard from students, teachers, alumni, social workers, parents, etc., that LGBTQ students do not feel safe in the schools that you are all charged with supporting and protecting. This is the undisputed fact. It is all you have heard in the weeks of written and oral testimony. You also know it to be true as does anyone who exists in our society. It is a sad and horrific truth that has gone on for far too long. In every school, LGBTQ students can tell you how horribly they have been treated by students and by staff. You all agree that in our school system, all means all, that you have a responsibility to ensure all students feel safe and can learn. This is not currently true at AACPS for LGBTQ students. The students are telling you they are suffering; you have the power to do something about it. Thank you for being truly committed to all students and voting yes.

Jennifer Haber
Westminster

4. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I strongly urge the Board to be "on the right side of history" and take the opportunity to put into place policies that protect the dignity and humanity of all of our students. This means comprehensive, meaningful and mandatory training for all staff in regards to our LGBTQ+ student population. Compassion and humility need to be front of minds and hearts as we work together to make all students feel accepted, welcomed and loved.

Sarah Blaser
Deale