

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | October 20, 2021

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

Page 1 of 1

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*

Gloria D. Dent

Robert Silkworth

Corine Frank

Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel

Bunmi Omisore

## Upcoming Meetings

**General Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021  
12:00 pm  
Board Room

**Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
3:00 pm  
Virtual

**Equity Committee**  
Tuesday, November 9, 2021  
11:30 am  
Virtual

**Budget Committee**  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
3:00 pm  
Virtual

**Board Workshop**  
Monday, November 15, 2021  
6:00 pm  
Board Room

### 4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

### 6:00 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 Recognitions

### 6:15 pm 3. Reports

3.01 President's Report

3.02 Equity Committee Report

3.03 Budget Committee Report

3.04 Candace Antwine ROTC

Scholarship Committee Report

3.05 CRASC Report

3.06 CAC Report

3.07 Superintendent's Report - School Operations Update

### 7:30 pm 4. Public Comments

The Board will hear in-person and virtual public comment on agenda items during regularly scheduled meetings from up to a total of 10 speakers per agenda item of each meeting, prior to Board discussion of those items. Those wishing to provide live in-person or virtual public comment may register, space permitting, at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://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](http://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](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony).

### 8:30 pm 5. Presentation/Discussions (A)

5.01 Prismatic Services, Inc., Final Recommendation

### 9:30 pm 6. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

6.01 Snow Removal

6.02 Water Testing

### 9:45 pm 7. Action Items (A)

7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

### 10:00 pm 8. Policy Revision – First Reading (A)

8.01 Non-Discrimination – Code AC

8.02 Violence and Vandalism – Code KG

8.03 Board Committees – Code BBE

### 10:30 pm 9. Review Items (R)

9.01 Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Closeout

9.02 Monthly Financial Status Report

### 10. Adjourn/Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session (as needed)

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County

Written Testimony

October 20, 2021

**ITEM 5.01**

1. I ask the Board of Ed to reconsider changing school start times for this year 2021-22. Students and families have had enough adjustments starting in-person school again, and changing things in the middle of this year, amidst continuing transportation issues and families struggling to get to school, changing times is unnecessary and could negatively impact too many families. Students in high school with current internships and work opportunities cannot suddenly tell their employer that their schedule has changed and is later in February. I do not teach one high school student who is happy about start times changing that will now affect their jobs, sports, music, drama, and extracurricular schedules later. These high school students have been through enough after 18 months without school. Please leave this year alone.

Elizabeth Fine, Gambrills, MD

2. Please do not implement start times changes this academic year. Having attended events at the HS this year, when I ask parents if they realize a start time change was pushed through under COVID and is happening mid-year as the Prismatic Bus Study, they don't believe me. We need consistency this year for student and families, don't enact any changes mid-year. Additionally, the board needs to let all families know of this change since it was voted on under COVID and people thought it was just to impact the hybrid and virtual start times, not a permanent change. This needs to be an open and transparent discussion with all staff, students and families, not a rush to implement a change that is hidden under bus studies and COVID but is up front as a start time change.

I am against a change to start times for the High Schools, the impact to internships, AACC classes and sports schedules is detrimental to the students. Real life, we get up and work, college has early classes, changing times does not prepare students for real life. Going later in the day will not add sleep, ask the students what they want.

DO NOT MAKE THIS CHANGE, address the few Elementary schools but leave High School times as they are now! Jennifer Dinmore, Odenton, MD

3. Regardless of the testimony that you will hear from the Prismatic representative there is no way that AACPS should move forward with changing of school start times in the middle of the school year. During her last report, Prismatic's representative mentioned that 32 new buses would be needed. This county can't even run the bus routes that we already have!! There is no way this should be under consideration at this point.

I am in full support of changing school start times but now is clearly not the time. We need to think logically about this. Start times should never switch mid year as that is totally disruptive to many other things. Start times are not changed in a vacuum and the ripple effects of this being done mid year will have many repercussions so regardless of the bus situation this should never

occur mid year. Change the times starting Fall 2022. Cheryl Wolf, Severna Park, MD

#### **ITEM 8.01**

4. If the Board is so against discrimination, then they should ensure that students' vaccination status not be used to discriminate against them. We know for a fact that at least one student has been bullied in this regard. I have even heard of teachers separating students based on their vaccination status and this should NEVER happen in our schools! Please add "vaccination status" to the list in #2, under "Position."

Secondly, the AACPS' action of "tolerating" gender fluid boys in girls' bathrooms creates the possibility of sexual assault (as in the case of the trans boy assaulting female students in bathrooms in Loudoun County, Virginia). This non-discrimination policy has created a new problem and the Board must acknowledge it and then spell out, in any revisions, how you will prevent incidents like that from ever happening at AACPS and stipulate the consequences to the perpetrator.

Finally, if the board wants to specify what symbols are acceptable, this policy should stipulate the requirement that only the American flag should be displayed in the classroom, why it is displayed/clarify what it stands for and what it does NOT stand for – this should be defined in writing in this policy. This non-discrimination policy should also specifically prohibit BLM flags/paraphernalia in the classroom, and state that BLM is a violent Marxist group which preaches hate against other races. Peggy Williams, Severna Park, MD

5. AACPS should not discriminate against unvaccinated students. It is private medical information. Add it to this policy.

Students have been sexually assaulted in Virginia by "trans" boys due to non-discrimination policies. The current AACPS policy of tolerance puts students in danger. The revised policy should detail a solution to this. Otherwise, go back to having boys' and girls' bathrooms and not allowing mixed-identities to pick and choose.

BLM is a violent, racist hate group and any symbols of it should be banned from AACPS buildings and classrooms. James J Elbourn, Severna Park, MD

#### **ITEM 8.02**

6. Under #1 a and b in the revision, is the Board planning to use county funding and/or AACPS resources to bring illegal aliens/immigrants into our classrooms? The language seems to infer that. If so, then it should be spelled out in the policy so the public can understand what the Board is actually doing.

AACPS is being extremely hypocritical to be concerned about violence and vandalism yet openly supports a group that has committed and promotes violence towards certain race groups and

whose vandalism caused BILLIONS in damages across the country last year. Accordingly, I would suggest the Board revise this policy to include BLM logos alongside the swastika.

Re: #3, 4, and 5, there should be language stipulating that parents expressing free speech will not be considered by AACPS as "engaging in violence." This policy, in that context, must specifically define "threaten" and "violence." The heavy use of security at a previous meeting seemed like a publicity stunt meant to depict parents as violent; I find this unconscionable and disgusting.

Vaccine mandates and forced invasive COVID testing are an act of violence against students' bodily autonomy. If AACPS is truly against violence, then it must stop with these illegal protocols. Peggy Williams, Severna Park, MD