

Date: September 14, 2017

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

**THROUGH:** Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Jackson, Interim Chief Operating Officer  
Helen Lloyd, Director of Communications

**TO:** The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Policy Revisions

**SUMMARY:**

**Best Practices/School Division-Initiated Policy Revisions:**

The Superintendent proposes the following policy revisions driven by best practices and the changing needs of the school division and community. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

**[Policy BDDE – Rules of Order and Bylaws](#)**

The School Board has expressed its desire to maximize the efficiency of its Board Meetings. As part of that goal, the Board proposes including the approval of meeting minutes as a consent item on Board agendas. To implement this change, the Board's Rules of Order, last reviewed in 2014, must be amended to move the approval of minutes from the "Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes" to the "Consent Calendar." In addition, Policy BDDE has been revised to reflect the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**[Policy EB – School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan](#)**

In line with federal guidelines, law enforcement agency recommendations, and the *School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan* developed by the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety, this policy has been revised to reflect ACPS' shift toward options-based responses to violent intruder situations. The proposed revision is a necessary first step in a year-long implementation process across the Division. In conjunction with outside experts and law enforcement, ACPS will train staff and students in the latest response techniques during lockdowns. This policy was last revised in 2016.

**[Policy EBCA – Emergency Preparedness Drills](#)**

Also revised in 2016, this policy has been updated to align with the changes to Policy EB discussed above.

**Statutory/Regulatory Policy Revisions:**

Changes to the Code of Virginia regularly impact School Board policies. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend the following amendment. (A hyperlink to the current policy is included for reference.)

## [Policy KL – Public Complaints](#)

Last reviewed by the School Board in 1996, this policy has been updated to reflect the revision of Virginia Code § 22.1-87. The current statute requires that parents/guardians of students who are aggrieved by an action of the School Board may petition the local circuit court for judicial review. The court will uphold the Board’s action unless the Board exceeded its authority, acted arbitrarily or capriciously, or abused its discretion.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-253.13:7](#) requires that each local school board shall maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. In addition, the Alexandria City School Board’s Policy BF provides that policies will be reviewed at least every three years and revised as needed.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the proposed policy revisions.

### **IMPACT:**

By reviewing policies periodically, the School Board ensures that ACPS operations are aligned to support excellence and high performance.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposed revisions to Policies BDDE, EB, EBCA, and KL

### **CONTACT:**

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