

Date: December 15, 2016

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

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

**THROUGH:** Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Comprehensive Policy Review: 12/15/16 School Board Meeting

**SUMMARY:**

Changes to the Code of Virginia took effect July 1, 2016 that impact School Board policies. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that it approve the resulting policy revisions discussed at the December 6, 2016 Work Session. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy BBFA - School Board Member Conflict of Interest](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the recent revisions to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act by HB 2070 which went into effect in 2016. This revision has added the ability for Board Members or employees subject to the Act to seek written opinions from the local Commonwealth's attorney, the local City attorney, or the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council on a potential conflict of interest. This revision then bars prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act provided that the Board Member or employee placed "good faith reliance" on the opinion and fully disclosed the facts prior to it being issued.)

[Policy BDC – Closed Meetings](#) (Last reviewed in 2014, this policy has been updated to reflect the recent amendment of Va. Code §2.2-3711 by HB 817/SB 494 and SB 493. This revision now prohibits school boards from discussing board member compensation in closed session. In addition, it broadens qualifying "records" to qualifying "information" under §§2.2-3705.1, 2.2-3705.2, and 2.2-3705.6 that may be discussed in closed session.)

[Policy BDD – Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations](#) (Last reviewed in 2014, this policy's text has been updated by VSBA to better reflect its legal references.)

[Policy DJ – Small Purchasing](#) (Last amended in April 2016, this policy has been updated to reflect the recent amendment of Va. Code §2.2-4303 by HB 1166/SB362, which went into effect July 1, 2016. It prohibits non-competitive, transportation-related construction contracts (e.g., pot hole repair), from exceeding \$25,000 in the aggregate.)

[Policy IKF – Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit, and Diploma Classifications](#) (Last amended in June 2016, this policy and the accompanying [Regulation IKF-R](#) have been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:4 by HB 895/SB 336, which took effect July 1, 2016. As a result of the Virginia General Assembly’s push for the “high school redesign” and its removal of most references to standard and verified units of credit in the Code of Virginia, Policy IKF and Regulation IKF-R have been revised to identify the cohort of students to whom the current graduation requirements will remain in effect.)

[Policy IL - Testing Programs](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy’s legal references have been updated. In addition, minor textual changes have been made to accurately reflect the statutes.)

[Policy KBA - Requests for Information](#) (Last reviewed in June 2016, this policy has been updated to reflect the enactment of Va. Code §2.2-3704.2 by HB 818, which went into effect July 1, 2016. These statutory changes require ACPS to post the name and contact information of its designated FOIA Officer on its website and in Regulation IKF-R. (ACPS already posts this information on its website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/foia/>, but it is now required by policy.) The designated officer is also required to receive annual FOIA training. [Regulation KBA-R](#) is included for reference. It has been updated to align with the changes to Policy KBA, and reflects the amendment of Va. Code §2.2-3704, the enactment of §2.2-3704.01 by HB 817/SB 494, and the enactment of §2.2-3704.2 by HB 818, which clarify that a public record may be withheld in its entirety only when an exclusion from disclosure applies to the entire content of the public record.)

[Policy LI - Relations with Educational Accreditation Agencies](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:3 by SB 368, which went into effect July 1, 2016. Minor textual changes have been made to reflect these updated legal references.)

**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 approve the attached policies.

**IMPACT:**

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposed revisions to various policies

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Abbruzzese, 703-619-8314