

Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee Meeting

1340 Braddock Place

School Board Meeting Room

November 18, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Meeting Participants:

School Board Members: Christopher Suarez, Heather Thorton

Staff members: Kennetra Wood, Jennifer Abbruzzese, Julie Crawford

Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) consultant: Jasmine Bowles

Ms. Bowles joined the meeting via Zoom.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board Member Thorton. Minutes from the previous meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

Discussion:

The ACPS/IDRA Audit Team reviewed the background and purpose of the Equity Policy Audit, which is to:

- Ensure each policy aligns, guides and supports educational equity and the Strategic Plan;
- Specifically identify root causes of disparities;
- Focus on the most marginalized populations to ensure equity for all;
- Uncover and revise policies that thwart the success of historically marginalized groups;
- Dismantle current systems that are barriers to student success

The Audit team then summarized the responsibilities of the School Board Committee as well as the Committee review process and its goal to perform an in-depth policy review which is as follows:

- Review policies
- Discuss & consider stakeholder feedback
 - ACPS/IDRA Audit Team
 - Focus groups
- Develop revision
 - Additional rounds of discussion & feedback
- Refine proposals and advance to full School Board

Ms. Jasmine Bowles, IDRA Equity Consultant, then reviewed the themes and highlights identified in IDRA's Equity Policy Audit Report regarding ACPS' student discipline and conduct policies as well as reviewed the feedback from parent and student focus groups from October of 2021.

Ms. Kennetra Wood then reviewed the feedback from school administrator focus groups from October of 2021.

The committee reviewed and provided feedback on the following policies:

- Policy JGD/JGR & Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R: Suspension & Expulsion
- Policy JGDA & Policy JGDB: Disciplining Student with Disabilities

The committee provided provisions for the following policies through an All Write Round Robin:

- Policy JFC & Regulation JFC-R: Student Conduct
- Policy JFCA: Teacher Removal of Students from Class
- Policy JFCB: Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
- Policy JFCF/JFCI & Regulation JFCF-R/JFCI-R: Alcohol and Other Drugs in Schools
- Policy JFCH/GBEC: Tobacco-Free School for Staff and Students
- Policy JFCE: Gang Activity or Association
- Policy JFG: Search and Seizure
- Policy JGD/JGE & Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R: Suspension & Expulsion
- Policy JGDA & Policy JGDB: Disciplining Student with Disabilities.

Next Steps:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2021 in the School Board Meeting Room. The committee will

- Begin review of next group of Tier 1 policies (Student Placement)
- Discuss feedback from Student Placement focus group

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.