

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 8, 2024
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant
THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board
TOPIC: Proposed Policy Revisions

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 FOCUS AREA:

N/A

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan
- Reduce Class Sizes
- K-4 Literacy
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Restorative Practices Supports
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

Staff are proposing the revision of several policies and regulations. Summaries of the revision, including links to code changes where appropriate, are presented in the Details section. Red-line changes and comments are included in the draft policies. These policies have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee.

The proposed revisions were presented for Information on January 18, 2024.

DETAILS:

The following summarizes the proposed revisions, details are in the track-changes of the draft policies.

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BDA - Regular School Board Meetings

- 5-year review
- Standard changes
- Clarified language about individual school board members speaking to each other
- Added breadcrumbs to BDC - Closed meetings
- Noted that meetings are live streamed when reasonably possible
- Noted that reproductions must comply with generally accepted journalistic standards.

BDB - Special Called School Board Meetings

- 5-year review
- Standard Changes
- VSBA Model Policy alignment

BDC - Closed Meetings

- 5-year review
- Standard Changes
- References updated to reflect policy title revisions

BDCA - Calling and Certification of Closed Meetings

- 5-year review
- Standard Changes
- VSBA Model Policy alignment
- Referenced updated to align with code referenced in the policy
- Updated to align with Va. Code § 2.2-3705.2

BDDD - Quorum

- 5-year review
- Affirmed without changes

BACKGROUND:

The proposed revisions are part of the Board's ongoing work to provide ACPS with high-quality governance. ACPS has over 400 policies and regulations and has established the target of reviewing at least 100 policies and regulations each school year. Candidate policies for revision are drawn from code changes, changes in the VSBA model policies, the code requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified by the Board and/or staff for review.

Drafts of proposed revisions are available for public review as part of the Policy Subcommittee, Board Information, and Board Action processes.

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RECOMMENDATION:

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

IMPACT:

By auditing policies for equity, code compliance, and appropriate guidance the School Board ensures that ACPS has high-quality governance.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 240208_BDA - Regular School Board Meetings.pdf
2. 240208_BDB - Special Called School Board Meetings.pdf
3. 240208_BDC - Closed Meetings.pdf
4. 240208_BDCA - Calling and Certification of Closed Meetings.pdf
5. 240208_BDDD - Quorum.pdf

REFERENCES:

1. May 1, 2023, SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
2. January 18, 2024, School Board Meeting

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