

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

September 21, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Parents Volunteering in Schools (07-26-2022-01-B-4)

During the Public Comments discussion, Board members requested the following information:

**Question**

Please provide follow-up information regarding the assertion that parents are not being allowed to volunteer in schools. Can we find out what schools are still resistant to having parent volunteers coming in to help and figure out ways to help alleviate their concerns?

**Response**

A review was conducted by staff in the Office of School Support and Well-Being (OSSWB) and it was found that all schools are planning to strategically utilize volunteers to support their operational and instructional programs.

The use of volunteers requires specific planning by school leadership to ensure that volunteers are properly utilized in a safe and meaningful manner. As stated in Regulation IRB-RA, *Volunteers in Schools*, "Decisions regarding the selection, placement, and replacement of volunteers are at the discretion of the principal. Examples of permissible activities for volunteers include, but are not limited to, assisting students as directed by teachers, chaperoning field trips, and supporting school activities and community engagement events". In speaking with principals, our review found schools receive requests for volunteers through the principal. The principal, in collaboration with the school leadership team, determines appropriate placement of volunteers in the school. The placement of volunteers may take time as schools re-establish routines, processes, and safety procedures in the new school year.

OSSWB staff will continue to monitor the implementation of this regulation to ensure that all schools continue to honor the importance of community partnership and the value of supplementing the teaching and learning environment through the use of volunteers.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Natasha Bolden, executive director of school support and well-being, via email.

MBM:PKM:RR:NB:pm

Copy to:  
Executive Staff                      Ms. Bolden                      Ms. Webb